

MARVEL
COMICS

PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES

Part 1 of five

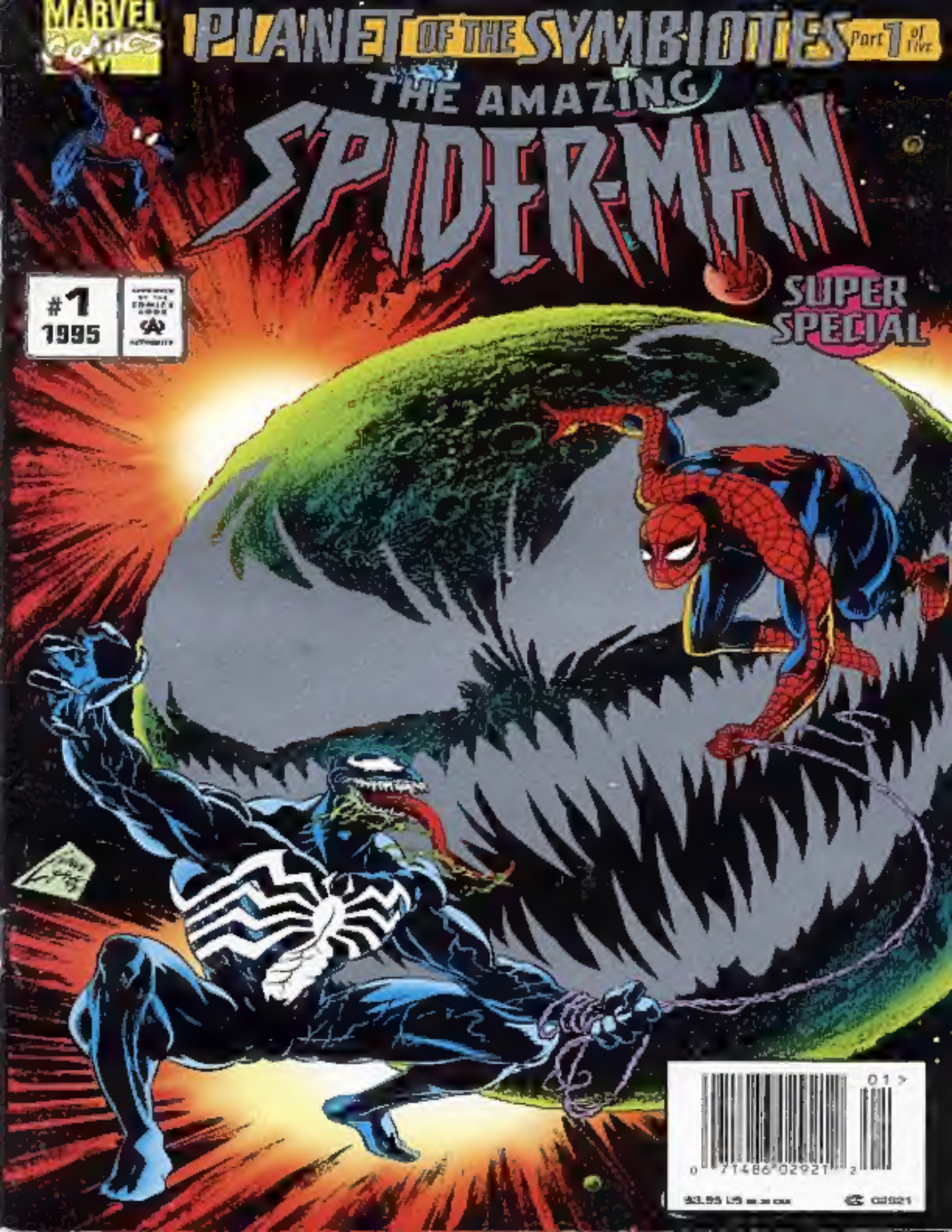
THE AMAZING

SPIDERMAN

#1
1995

APPROVED
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COMICS
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SUPER
SPECIAL



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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND ABILITY OF AN ARACHNID ARMED WITH HIS WONDERFUL WEB-SHOOTERS. THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME RESEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MAN, YOU
GUYS JUST
KILL ME --!

ZRATCH

WAAAA

WRIIIII

WRIIIII

PLANET OF THE
SYMBIOTES
CHAPTER ONE:

DAVID MICHELINE • WRITER DAVE
MOORE • PENCILER RALPH CARRERA •
INKER BILL OAKLEY • LETTERER
TOM SMITH • COLORIST TOM BREVOORT •
EDITOR PAMMY FINGEROTH • GROUP
EDITOR BOB BUDANSKY • EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE FAR CRY!

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YOU SAY YOU'RE
NEO-LUDDITES,
WANT TO ELIMINATE
TECHNOLOGY.

--BUT YOU
DO IT WITH
STOLEN JAMES
RIFLES?!



BESIDES, DESTROYING THAT
OLYTRON WAVE MODULATOR
IS WORTH ANY COMPROMISE!

THAT'S THEIR
TARGETS THAT
BIG MACHINE
SUSPENDED
OVERHEAD?

IT COMPACTS
ENERGY WAVES, MULTIPLY-
ING THE STRENGTH OF ANY
ATTACHED POWER
SOURCE BY TEN!

TECHNOLOGY ALREADY
BLIGHTS THE ENVIRON-
MENT-- THIS "ADVANCE"
COULD INCREASE THAT
DETERIORATION
TENFOLD!



SIXTY SECONDS
EARLIER, ONE
BLOCK AWAY.

IS IT—
UST

EDDIE BROOK
COMMUNES WITH
THE ALIEN
SYMBIOTE THAT
MIMICS HIS
HUMAN CLOTHING.

EVER
SINCE WE
JOINED,
BECAME
ONE—

—BECAME
VENOM—

—I SAW US
AS KINDRED
SPIRITS, ACTING
TOGETHER.
NOW—

—I'M NOT
SURE, E

E SINCE THE EVENTS
OF VENOM: SEPARATION
ANXIETY. — TOM

I KNOW IT'S RIGHT TO
PROTECT INNOCENTS,
NO MATTER WHAT
COST—

—INCLUDING THE
DEATHS OF THOSE
WHO'D HINDER US!
AND YET—

—HAVE THOSE
DEATHS BEEN
OUR CHOICE, OR
NOURIST

I WAS ALWAYS A
PHYSICAL PERSON,
BUT UNTIL OUR
UNION I WAS NEVER
SO—

—VIOLENT?

SKTASH



TWELVE DOWN,
THIRTY OR
FORTY TO GO!

Right!

GONNA BE
A LONG
DAY...



AWRIGHT! FROM UP
HERE, I CAN GET A
CLEAR SHOT AT--



--JUST A
SHADOW!
FROM--



--ABOVE--

KRUNNO

yeah!



WE THOUGHT
WE'D RETURN
YOUR LITTLE
MACHINE--

--BEFORE IT
COULD FALL
ON ANY
INNOCENT
BYSTANDERS!



VENOM!
ah, gee!

LONG DAY
JUST GOT
LONGER!





NO! GOTTA
GET OVER THERE
BEFORE--

WAIT!



I--I DIDN'T SAY
KILL HIM!

WHAT?

I... I THOUGHT
IT?

ARE YOU
SURE...?



WHAT
THE--??

Wh-wh/
SPIDER-GENIE
TINKLES!



GO! SPEEDY'S
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THIS! I'LL
DO WHAT I CAN!

RIGHT!

MACHINE
ACTUATING
!!

THKA
TAKER!



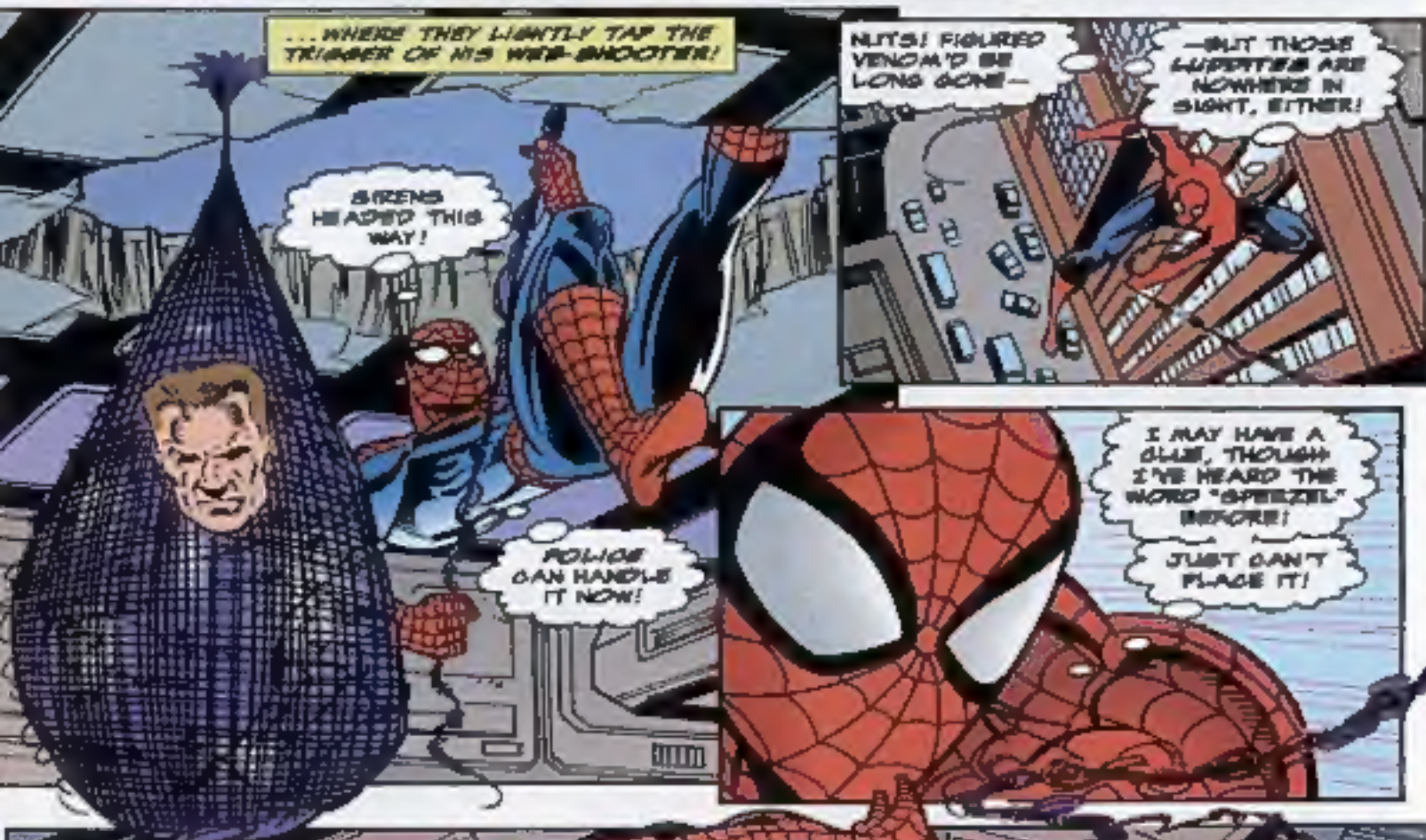
SHUT IT OFF! NOW!

YOU
KIDDIN'?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW
HOW I TURNED IT ON!



WHY / TALK
ABOUT BEGIN-
NER'S LUCK!

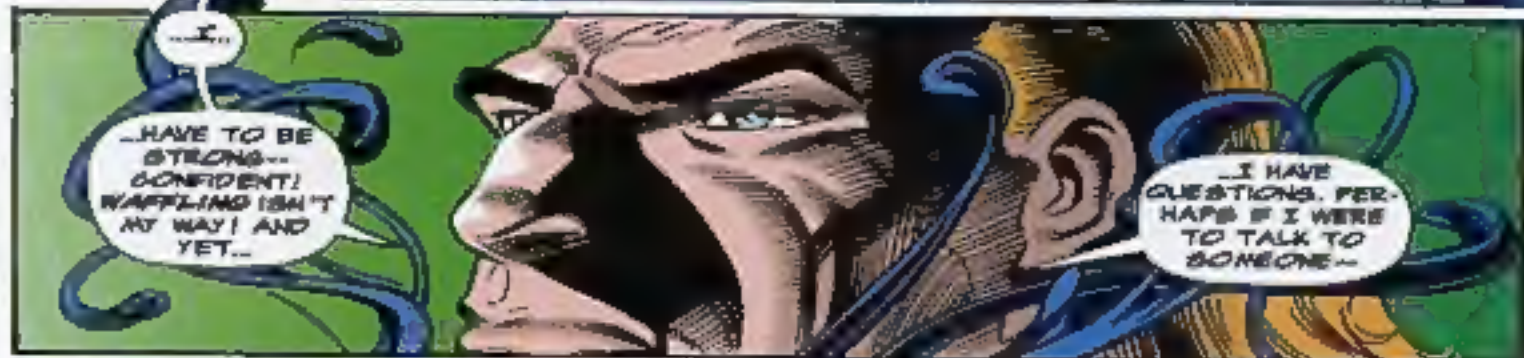




--THERE MAY
BE A WAY TO
MAKE EDDIE
BROCK DO IT!

OUR
EFFICIENCY AS
A PROTECTOR
IS BEING
COMPROMISED!

THIS IS
BAD.



WE...
I...
...HAVE TO BE
STRONG...
CONFIDENT!
WAFFLING ISN'T
MY WAY! AND
YET...

I HAVE
QUESTIONS. PER-
HAPS IF I WERE
TO TALK TO
SOMEONE...



--WHAT?

YES!
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

I DON'T NEED
ANYONE ELSE! I'M
EDWARD ALLAN
BROCK! AND BY
HEAVEN, I AM THE
MASTER OF MY
OWN FATE!

AREN'T
I?



YEP, YOU'RE A TUB, ALL RIGHT!

O'HON, MARY JANE--

--YOU HAVEN'T GAINED AN OUNCE SINCE WE WERE MARRIED! DRINK UP!

WHOLE MILK'S GOOD FOR YOU--AND EVEN BETTER FOR THE BABY!

OH, OKAY, 'DE PARKER!



BUT ONLY IF YOU PRESCRIBE A LITTLE MORE HOME TIME FOR YOURSELF!

WISH I COULD, HON.



BUT WE NEED THE MONEY I BRING IN SELLING SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS TO THE DAILY BUGLE, BESIDES--



--IF I CAN EXPLOIT THE GIFT I SAW BETWEEN EDDIE BROCK AND HIS "OTHER"--

--MAYBE I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO CHOOSE NOT TO BE VENOM ANY MORE!

AND TO MANAGE THAT, I'LL HAVE TO DO A LITTLE--

...RESEARCH!"

YEAH, REED USETA
DO A LOT O' THAT
RESEARCH STUFF,
TOO!

I CAN
IMAGINE!
THANKS FOR
LETTING ME
TAP THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR'S
DATABASE,
BEN.

NO
PROBLEM.

JUST GO TO
THE MAIN MENU
AND CLICK ON
"SPIDER-MAN,"
KID.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS
INFORMATION SYSTEM ISN'T
TELLING ME A LOT I
DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW!
AFTER ALL...

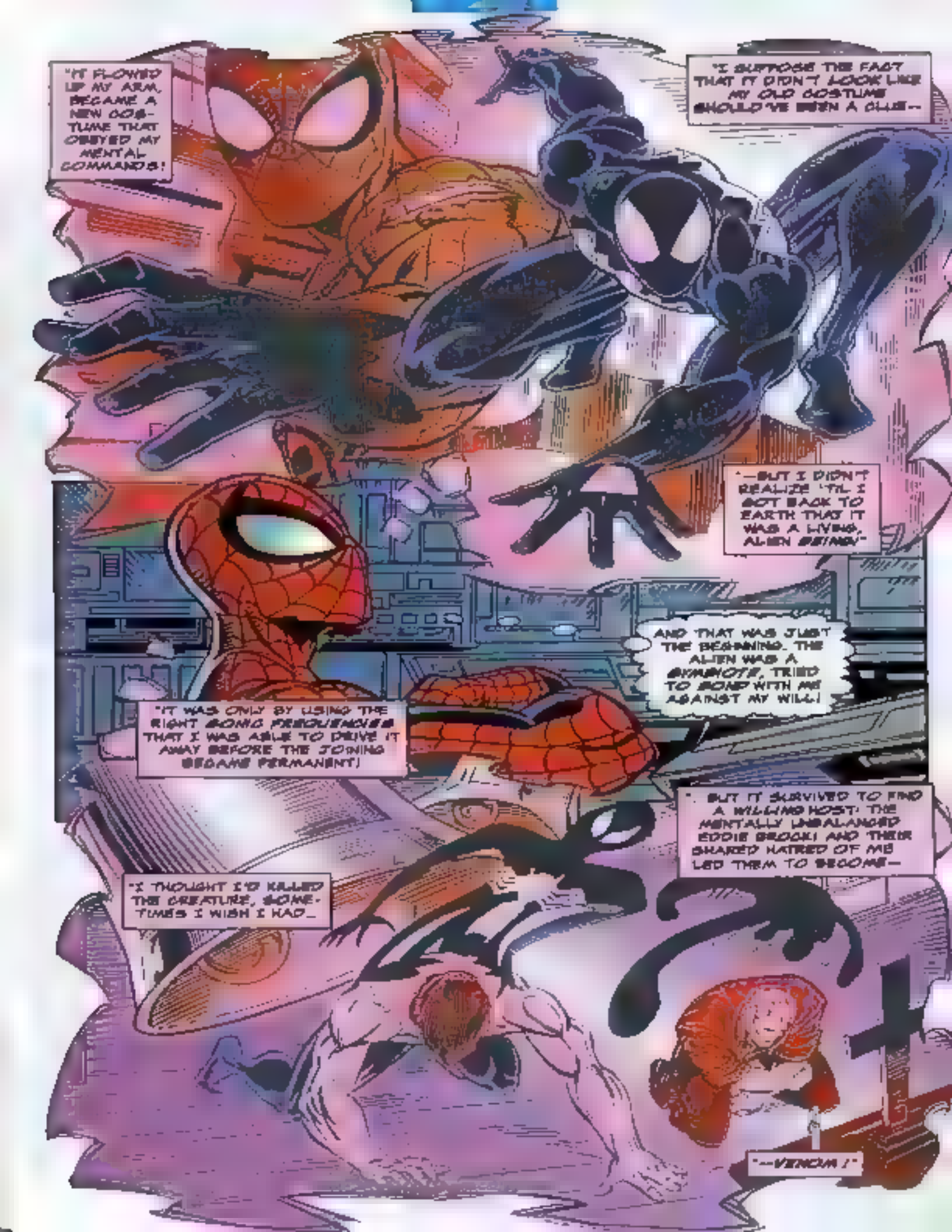
"...I WAS THERE WITH
THE FF ON BATTLE-
WORLD, DURING THE
GREAT SUPER HERO
WAR!

"WHEN MY COSTUME
GOT DAMAGED,
THE HULK TOLD ME
THERE WAS A
MACHINE THAT
COULD GENERATE
A NEW ONE BY
THOUGHT ALONE!"

KEEP MARVEL
SUPER HEROES
SECRET WARS #8
-- TOM

"BUT WHEN I FOUND WHAT
I ASSUMED WAS THE
RIGHT MACHINE, AND
STUCK MY HEAD IN--

"--THIS BLACK BLOB
POFFED OUT!



"IT FLOWED UP MY ARM, BECAME A NEW COSTUME THAT OBEYED MY MENTAL COMMANDS!

"I SUPPOSE THE FACT THAT IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MY OLD COSTUME SHOULD'VE BEEN A CLUE--

"--BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE 'TIL I GOT BACK TO EARTH THAT IT WAS A LIVING, ALIEN BEING!"

AND THAT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. THE ALIEN WAS A **SYMBIOTE**, TRIED TO BOND WITH ME AGAINST MY WILL!

"IT WAS ONLY BY USING THE RIGHT **SONG FREQUENCIES** THAT I WAS ABLE TO DRIVE IT AWAY BEFORE THE JOINING BECAME PERMANENT!

"I THOUGHT I'D KILLED THE CREATURE, SOMETIMES I WISH I HAD..."

"BUT IT SURVIVED TO FIND A WILLING HOST: THE MENTALLY UNBALANCED **EDDIE BROOK**! AND THEIR SHARED HATRED OF ME LED THEM TO BECOME--

"--VENOM!"



1. *Εὐχὰς* ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου
 2. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 3. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 4. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 5. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 6. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 7. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 8. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 9. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*
 10. *ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ ἔργου*

WELL, THAT
DIDN'T TEACH
ME ANYTHING
NEW, BUT IT DID
SOLIDIFY MY
FOOLISH.

YA MEAN ANTON SPEEDLETT
HE'S A CYBERNETICS
ENGINEER REED WASTA
CONSULT WITH.

BROOK SEEMS TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS COMMITMENT TO THE ALIEN. AND IF I CAN FIND THE RIGHT MENTAL "CROWBAR," MAYBE I CAN WIDEN THAT SPLIT!

THANKS, BEN. I'LL BRING THE PROGRAM BACK TO ITS MENU AND—

KLIK KLIK!

BROOK SEEMS TO BE HAVING
SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT HIS
COMMITMENT TO THE ALIEN.
AND IF I CAN FIND THE RIGHT
MENTAL "CROWBAR," MAYBE I
CAN WREN THAT GUY!

THANKS, BEN.
I'LL BRING THE
PROGRAM BACK
TO ITS MENU
AND—

**KLIK
KLIK!**

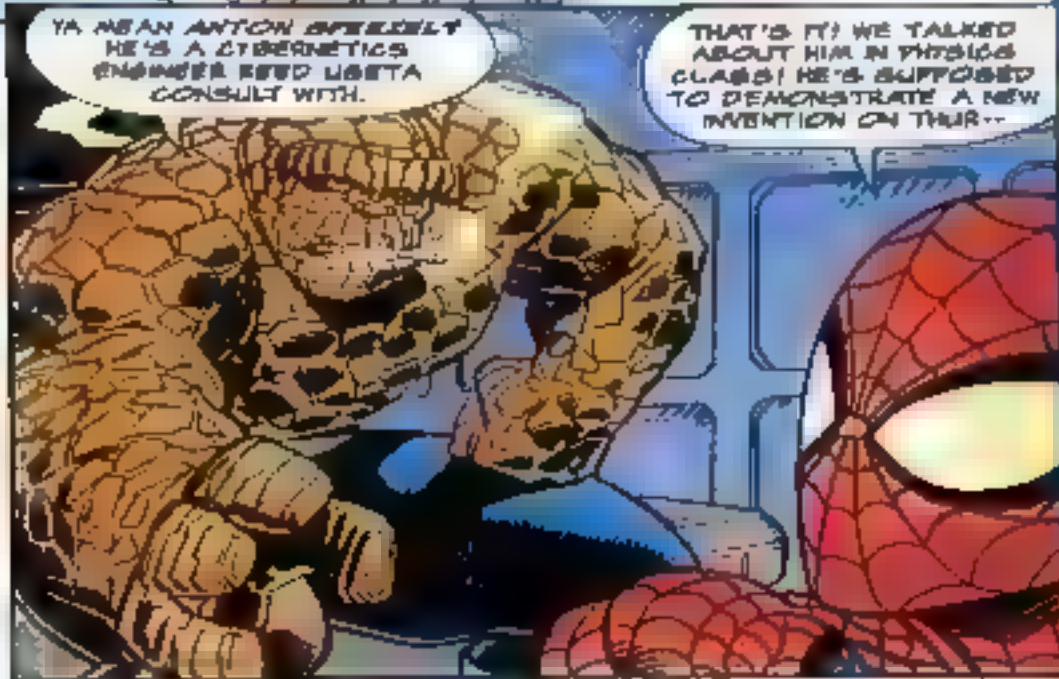
—WANTED! TWO ENTRIES
ABOVE MINE! "SPYGLASS"?

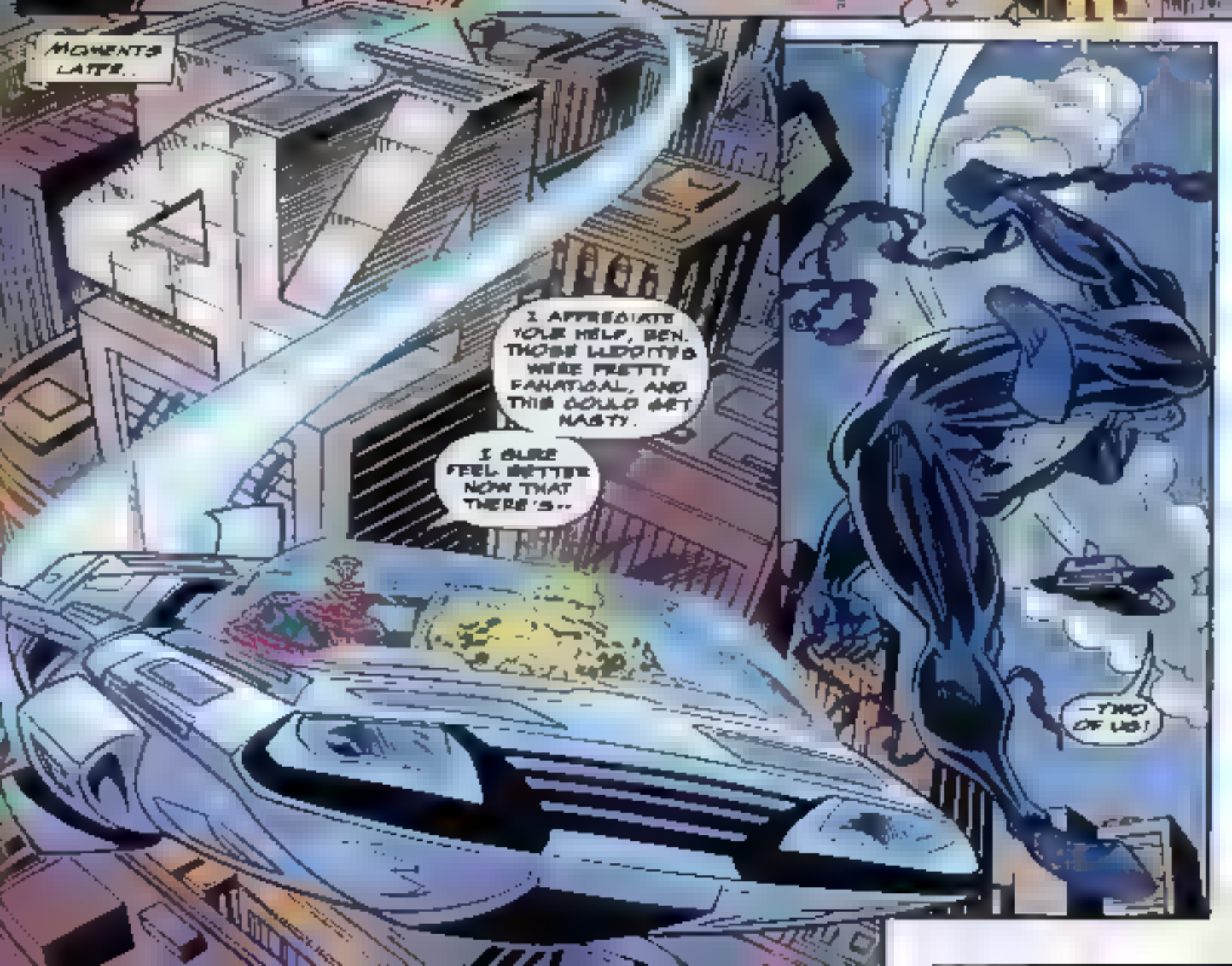
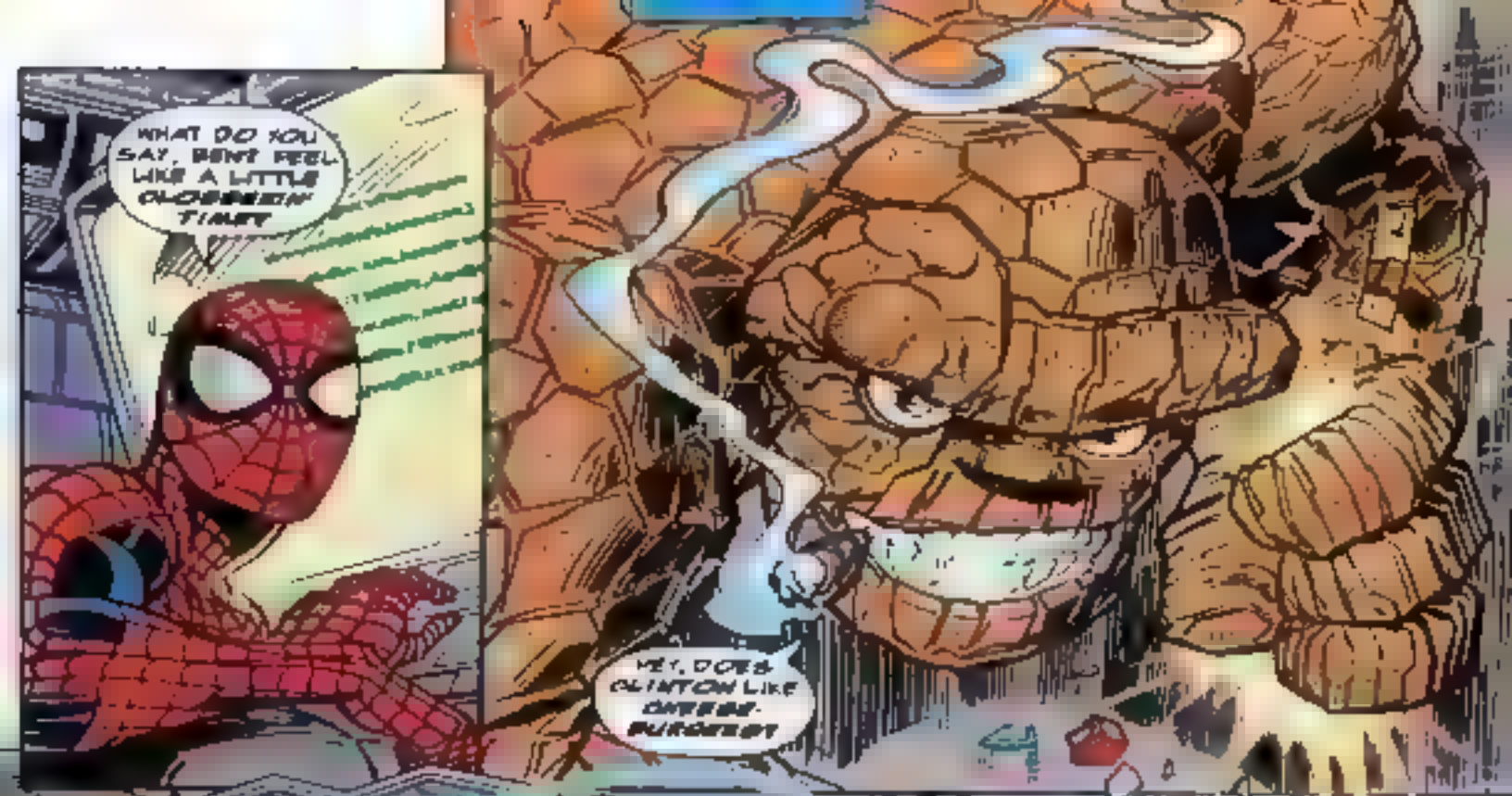
SPERZEL
SPHINX
SPIDER-MAN
SNEEKY
SBOCAHER
STERNO

THAT'S THE WORD
THOSE NEO-
LUDDITES USED!

THAT'S IT? WE TALKED ABOUT HIM IN PHYSICS CLASS! HE'S SUPPOSED TO DEMONSTRATE A NEW INVENTION ON THUR--

TOPAR





DOWNTOWN
THE STANLEY
AUDITORIUM

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN
DR. ANTON
SPERZEL!

WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO SHOW
YOU, MY FELLOW
SCIENTISTS, IS
THE NEXT STEP IN
VIRTUAL
REALITY!

BY WEARING
THIS HELMET, AN
OPERATOR CAN "SEE"
THROUGH SENSORS
ATTACHED TO THE
MARK-7 DIAGNOSTIC
DRONE BEHIND ME.

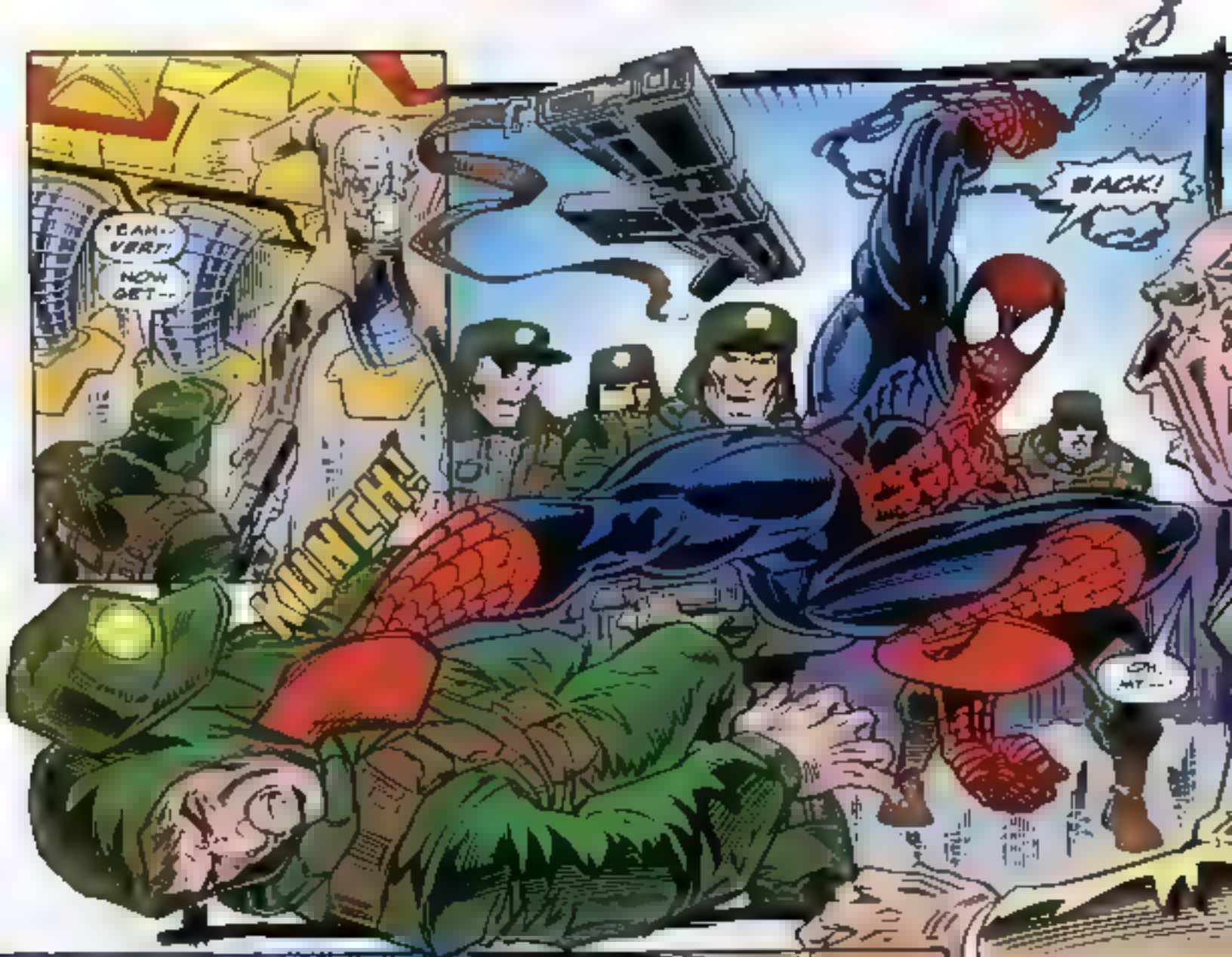
HE OR SHE WILL
THEN BE ABLE TO
MANEUVER THAT
VEHICLE, BY THOUGHT
ALONE, INTO THE
MOST HAZARDOUS OF
ENVIRONMENTS. TOKIO
WASTE, NUCLEAR
MELTDOWN, EVEN AN
ACTIVE VOLCANO!

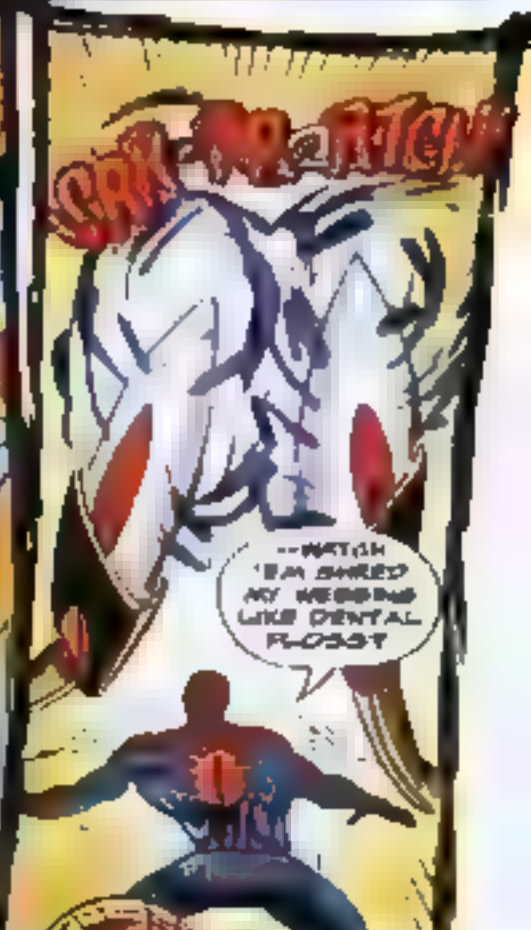
ALL WITH
A DEGREE OF SAFETY
HERETO-
FORE ONLY
DREAMT
OF!

AND WHEN DOES
THE DREAM BECOME
A NIGHTMARE?

HOW LONG
BEFORE SUCH
"PROGRESS" IS
USED TO CONTROL
PEOPLE?

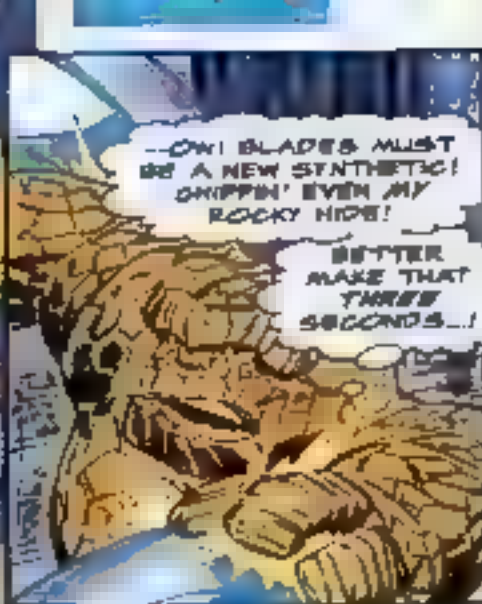
WHAT
ARE YOU
MAKING?







ALL I NEED IS
TWO SECONDS
TA~

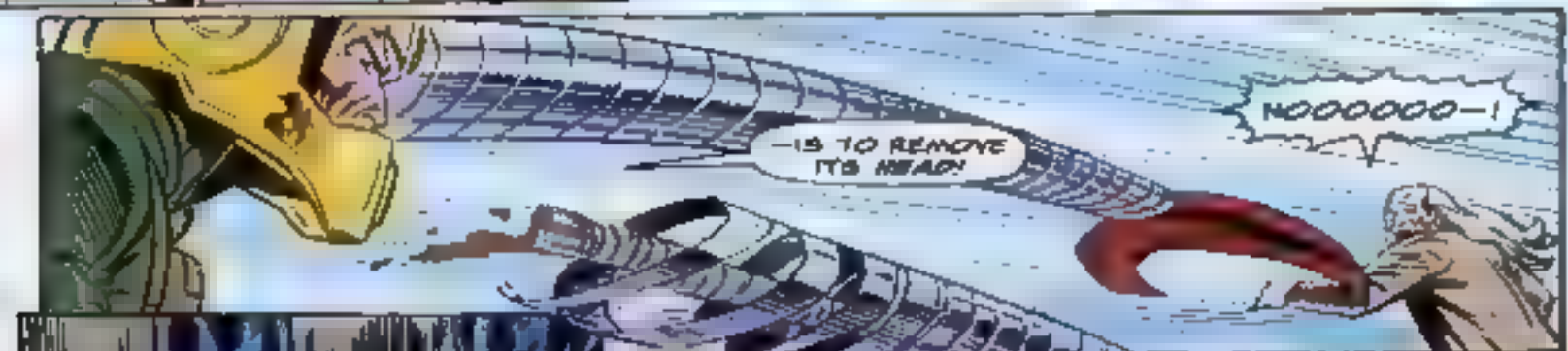


--OW! BLADES MUST
BE A NEW SYNTHETIC!
SHIPPIN' EVEN MY
ROCKY HIDE!

BETTER
MAKE THAT
THREE
SECONDS...!



PERHAPS THE
BEST WAY TO
KILL THE
SKEPOT OF
TECHNOLOGY,
OR, SPERZEL



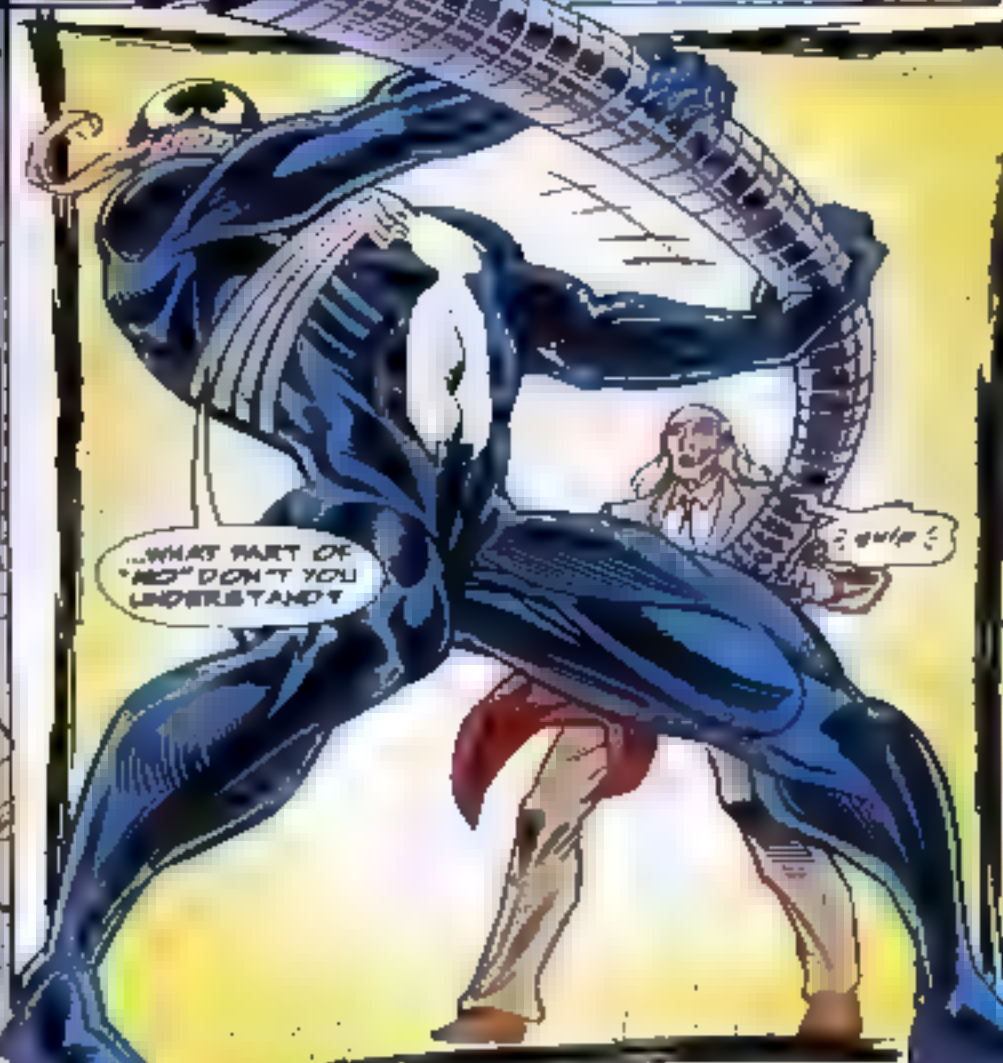
--IS TO REMOVE
ITS HEAD!

NOOOOOO--!



SO TELL
US,

!Z!



WHAT PART OF
"NO" DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?

gulp!



WE FOLLOWED YOU!

W-WE THOUGHT... IF WE COULD TALK...

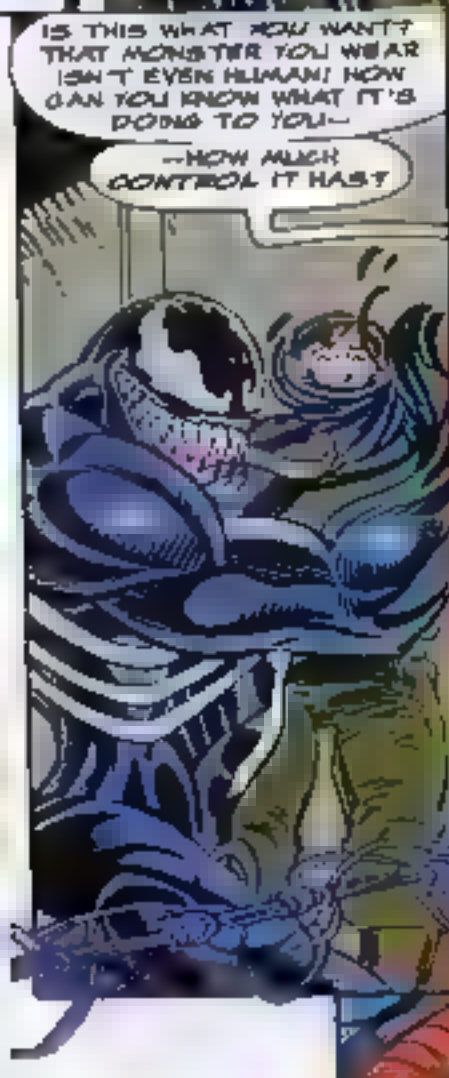
HE'S UNSURE, BATTLING THE ALIEN'S INFLUENCE!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!

EDDIE! LISTEN TO ME!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? THAT MONSTER YOU WEAR ISN'T EVEN HUMAN! NOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING TO YOU...

—HOW MUCH CONTROL IT HAS?



THINK, EDDIE! WHAT IF YOU'RE REALLY THE VICTIM! THE INNOCENT!

WHAT IF--

—IT'S REALLY YOUR COSTUME THAT'S INSANE?



HIT A NERVE!



HE'S STOPPED COLD!



AND WITHOUT VENOM
TO WORRY ABOUT, I
CAN FINISH OFF
THESE LAST
TECHNOBOTS!

...hmm?

BRIDEY BOFFED THE BOON
WITH THE CONTROL HELMET!
ROBOT'S HEBITATIN!!

BOTH
MEET--

--FIST!

KABRASH!


WIDDIE SCREAMED!
FEEDBACK MUST'VE
OVERHEATED THE
HELMET CIRCUITS!
HE'S JUST
UNCONSCIOUS...

...BUT VENOM
USED THE
DISTRACTION
TO ESCAPE!

LOOKING FOR HIM
WOULD BE USELESS


I CAN ONLY HOPE MY
PSYCHOLOGICAL
"RIGHT CROSS"...






THE BLACK SHAPE SLINKS AWAY, SLIDING SLOWLY ALONG THE DEW-DAMP GROUND.

NOW MORE THAN EVER IT IS ALIEN, TRULY ALONE.




REJECTED BY ALL IT'S CARED FOR, BY THOSE IT HAD SOUGHT ONLY TO SERVE—

—IT PULLS PAIN FROM ITS CORE, A PAIN THAT EMBODIES ALL THAT IS LONELY AND FORGOTTEN—




—AND POURS THAT PAIN INTO A SILENT SHRIEK, A PSYCHIC WAIL THAT REACHES TO THE VERY STARS ABOVE!




CLOSER TO HOME, RESULTS ARE IMMEDIATE. IN NEW JERSEY...

JOHN?
ARE YOU
GATING?



HONEY, WHAT'S
WROUGHT?

N-NOthin' I
SHUFF.



I-I JUST
FEEL SO
HOPELESS!

IN CHICAGO...

DADDY, WHY'S
SCREECHES
MOANN'?

HE, WH...
H-HE'S JUST
SINGIN',
SWEETHEART

Aooooo

INDEED, HISTORY WILL
RECORD UNPRECEDENTED
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION
THIS NIGHT.

AND OTHER SAD
STATISTICS WILL
SPIKE AS WELL.

JUST CAN'T
TAKE IT
ANY MORE!

FORGIVE
ME, DORIS,
I...

BUT THE DIREST CONSEQUENCE
UNFOLDS AT RAVENSOFT SANITARIUM.

DEERR!

WHERE'D
THAT ORRILL
COME FROM?

MUST
BE THE
COMPANY
I'M
KEEPIN'!

WHEN CLETUS
KASADY TURNS
INTO CARNAGE,
HE'S THE
SPOOKIEST GUY
ON THE PLANET!

THANK HEAVEN
HE'S IN A
COMA! A SICK
JERK CAN'T
EVEN MOVE--

--A
MUSCLE!

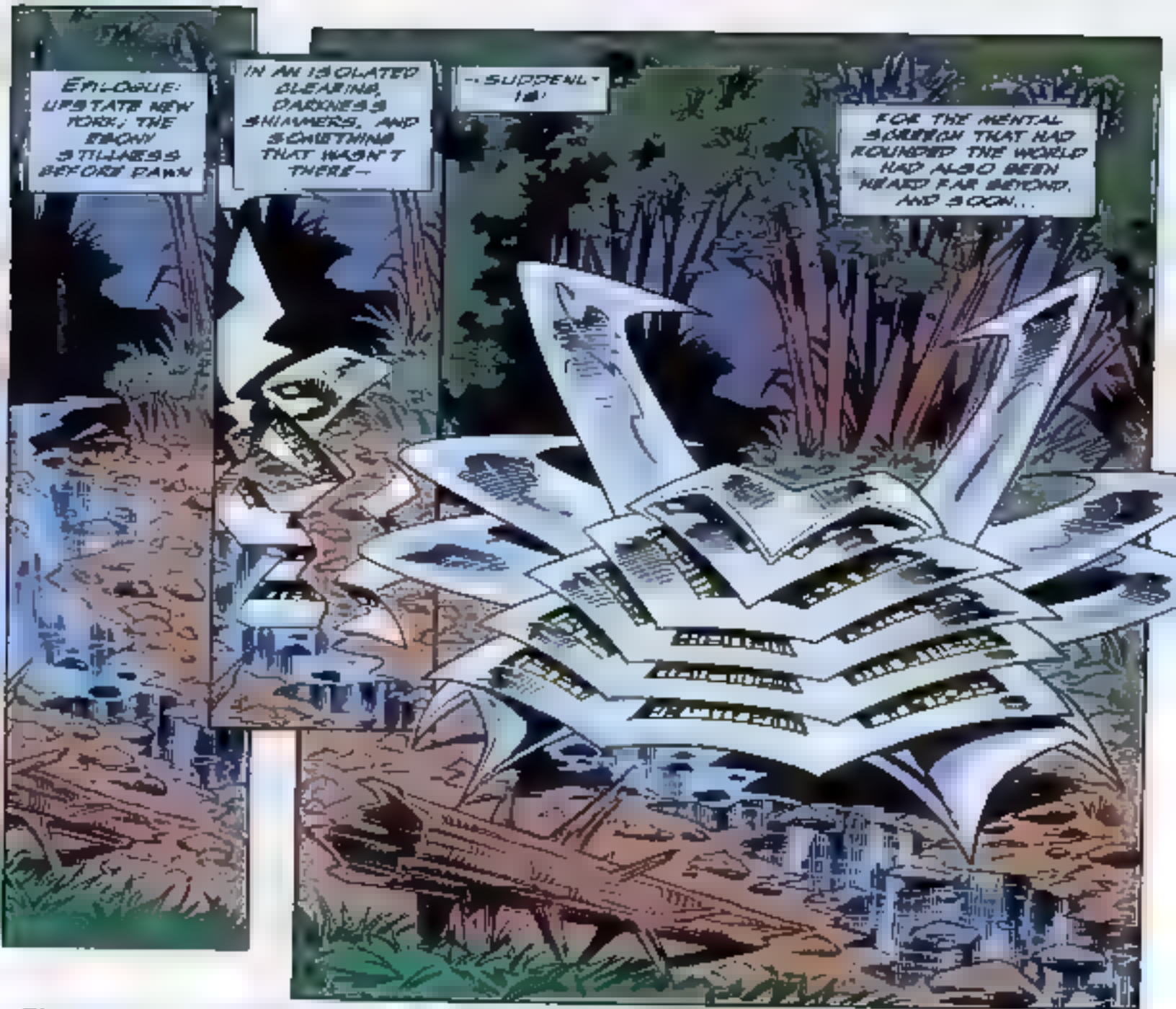
SEE THE UPCOMING
CONCLUSION TO
WHEN CARNAGE UNLEASHES
--SNEAK-A-PEEK-TOM

EPICURE:
UPSTATE NEW
YORK; THE
ECHO
STILLNESS
BEFORE DAWN

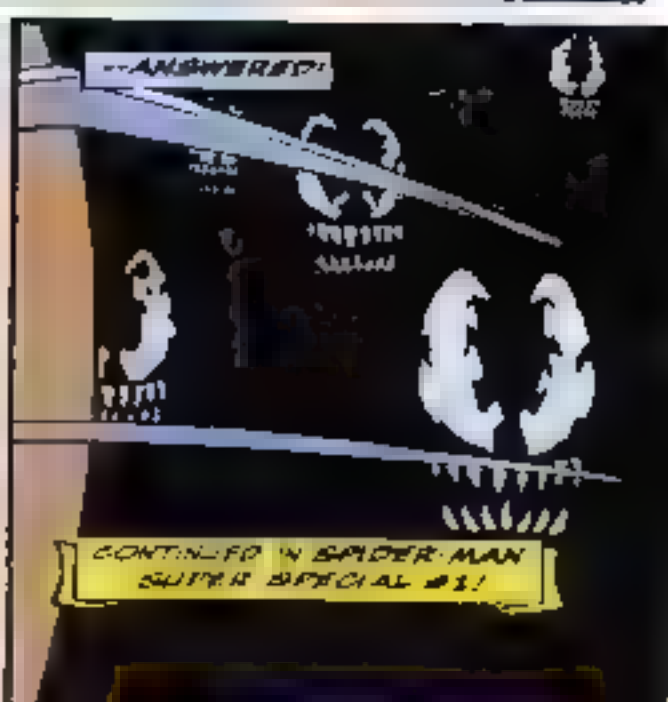
IN AN ISOLATED
CLEARING,
DARKNESS
SHIMMERS, AND
SOMETHING
THAT WASN'T
THERE—

--SUDDENL--
181

FOR THE MENTAL
SOUND THAT HAD
ROUNDED THE WORLD
HAD ALSO BEEN
HEARD FAR BEYOND,
AND SOON...



... THAT GRY
WILL- BE--



--ANSWERED--

CONTINUED IN SPIDER-MAN
SUPER SPECIAL #1!

NEW
YORK
CITY.

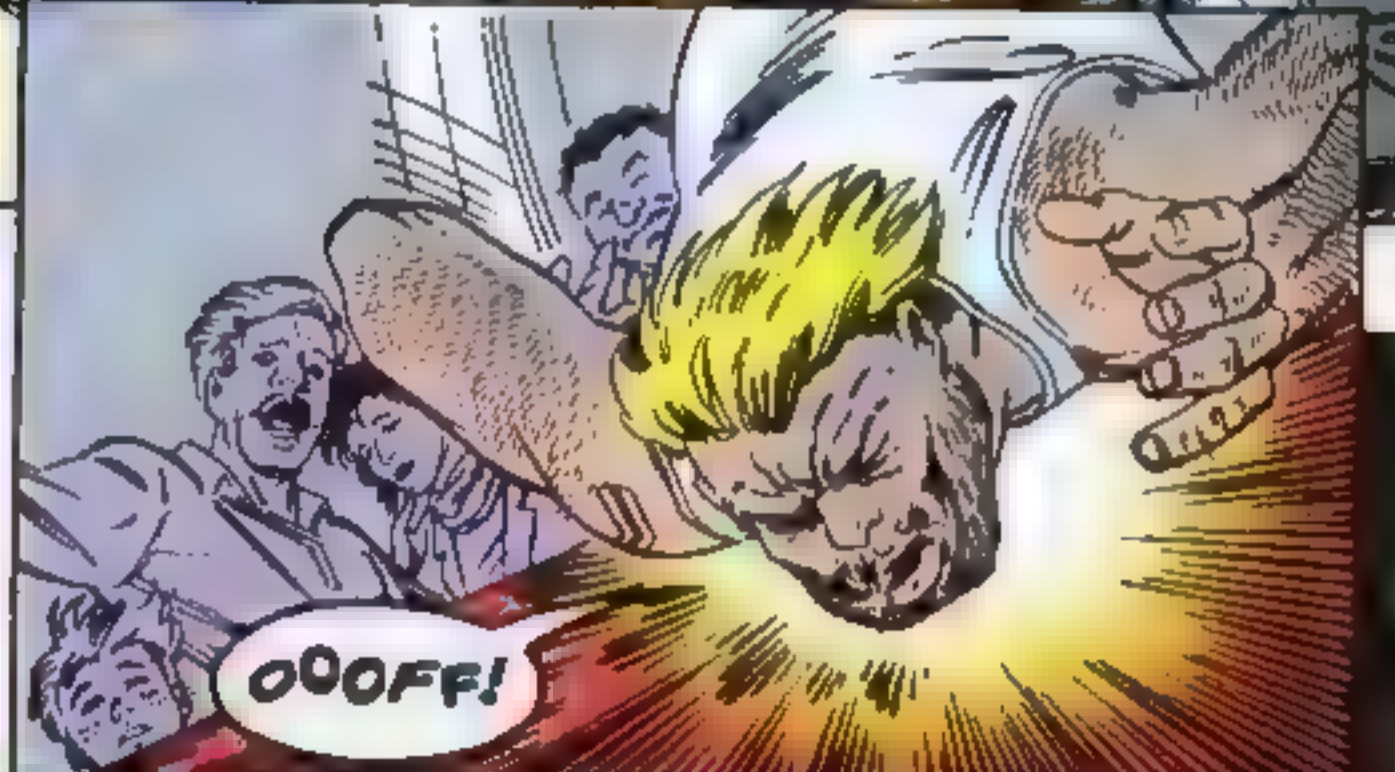
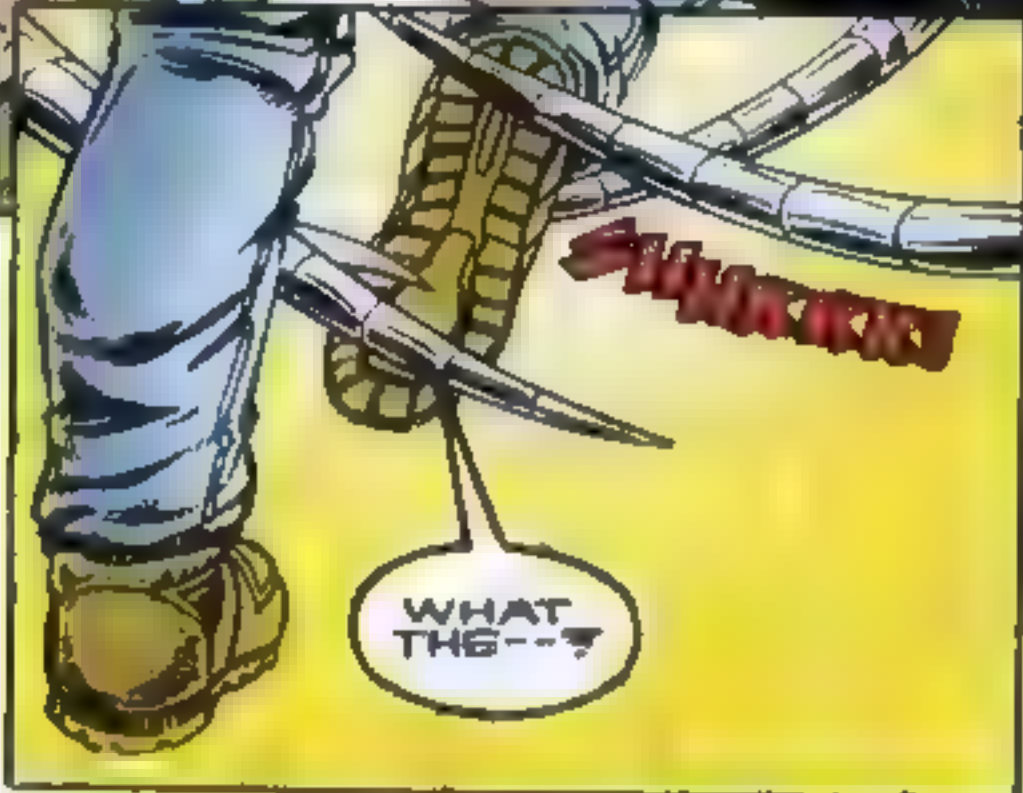
OKAY,
TOUGH GUY,
GIVE ME
YOUR BEST
SHOT!

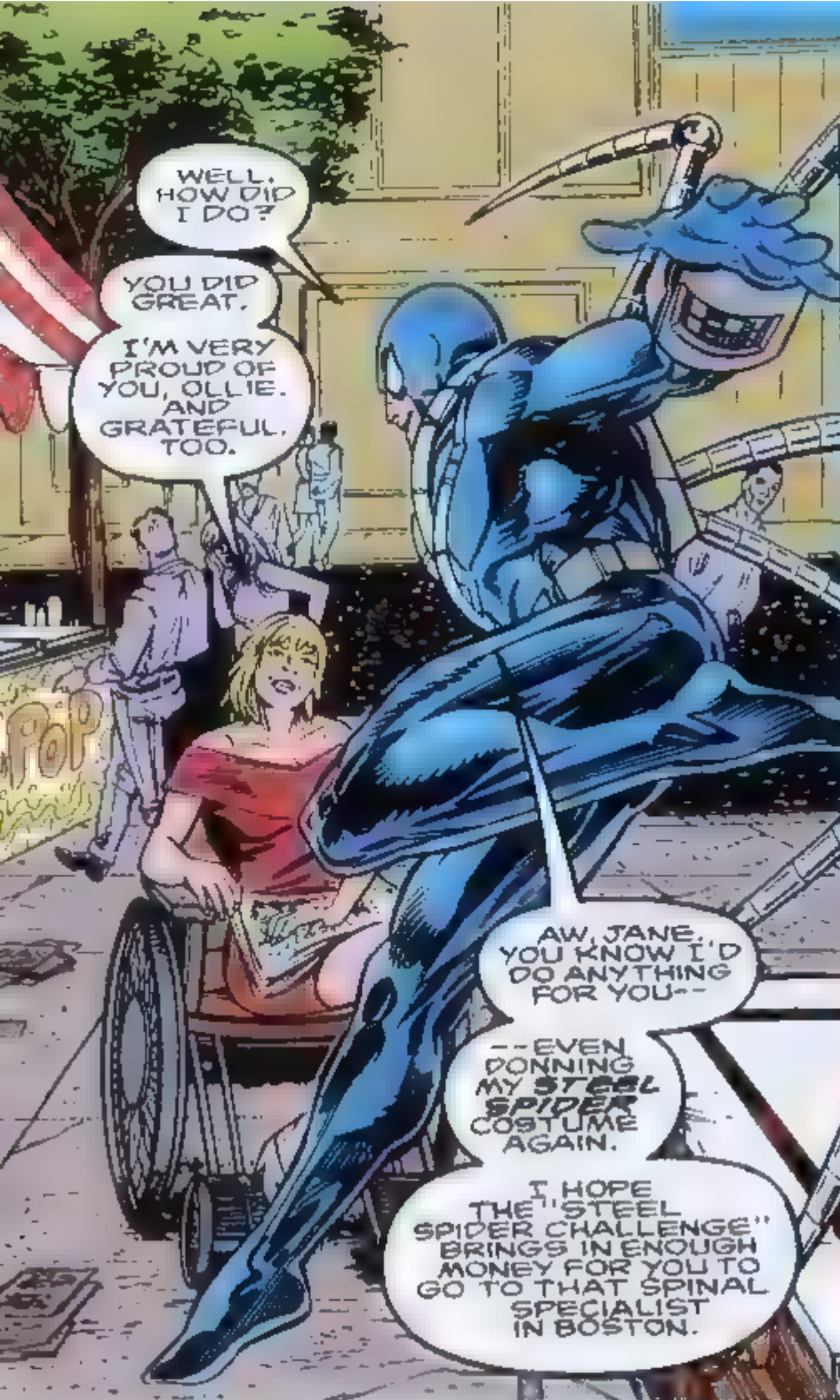
HIS NAME IS OLLIE OSNICK, BUT WHEN HE DONS THE HIGH-TECH HYDRAULIC TENTACLES OF HIS OWN DEVISING, THEY CALL HIM THE STEEL SPIDER.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

STREET FEAR

ERIC FEIN • JOHN CALIMEE • SCOTT KOBLISH
WRITER PENCILER INKER
JANICE CHIANG • JOE ANDREANI • TOM BREVOORT
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH • GROUP EDITOR
BOB BUDANSKY • EDITOR IN CHIEF





WELL, HOW DID I DO?

YOU DID GREAT.

I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU, OLLIE. AND GRATEFUL, TOO.

AW, JANE, YOU KNOW I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU--

--EVEN DONNING MY STEEL SPIDER COSTUME AGAIN.

I HOPE THE "STEEL SPIDER CHALLENGE" BRINGS IN ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOU TO GO TO THAT SPINAL SPECIALIST IN BOSTON.

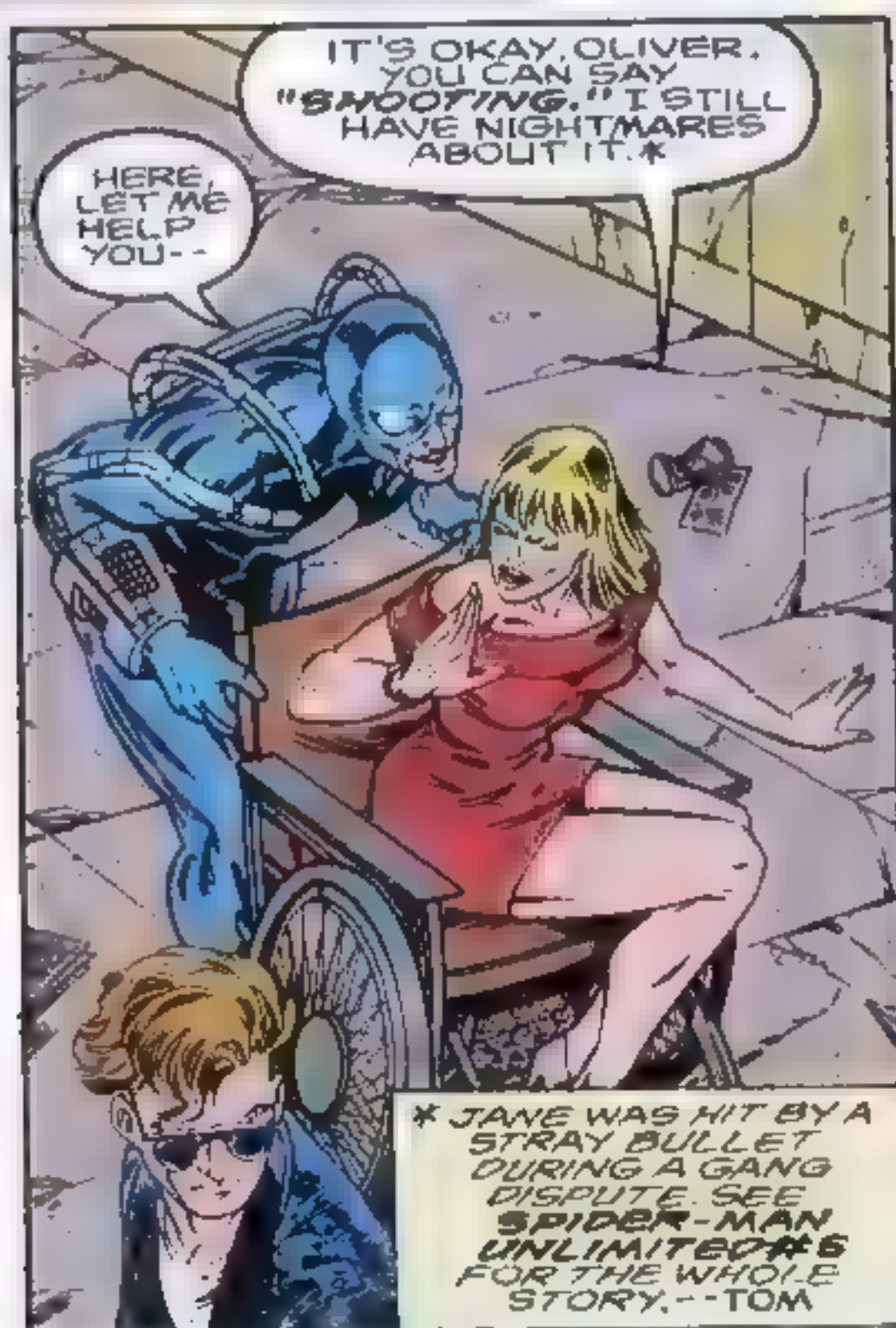


DON'T WORRY, IT WILL. AND IF IT DOESN'T...

DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.



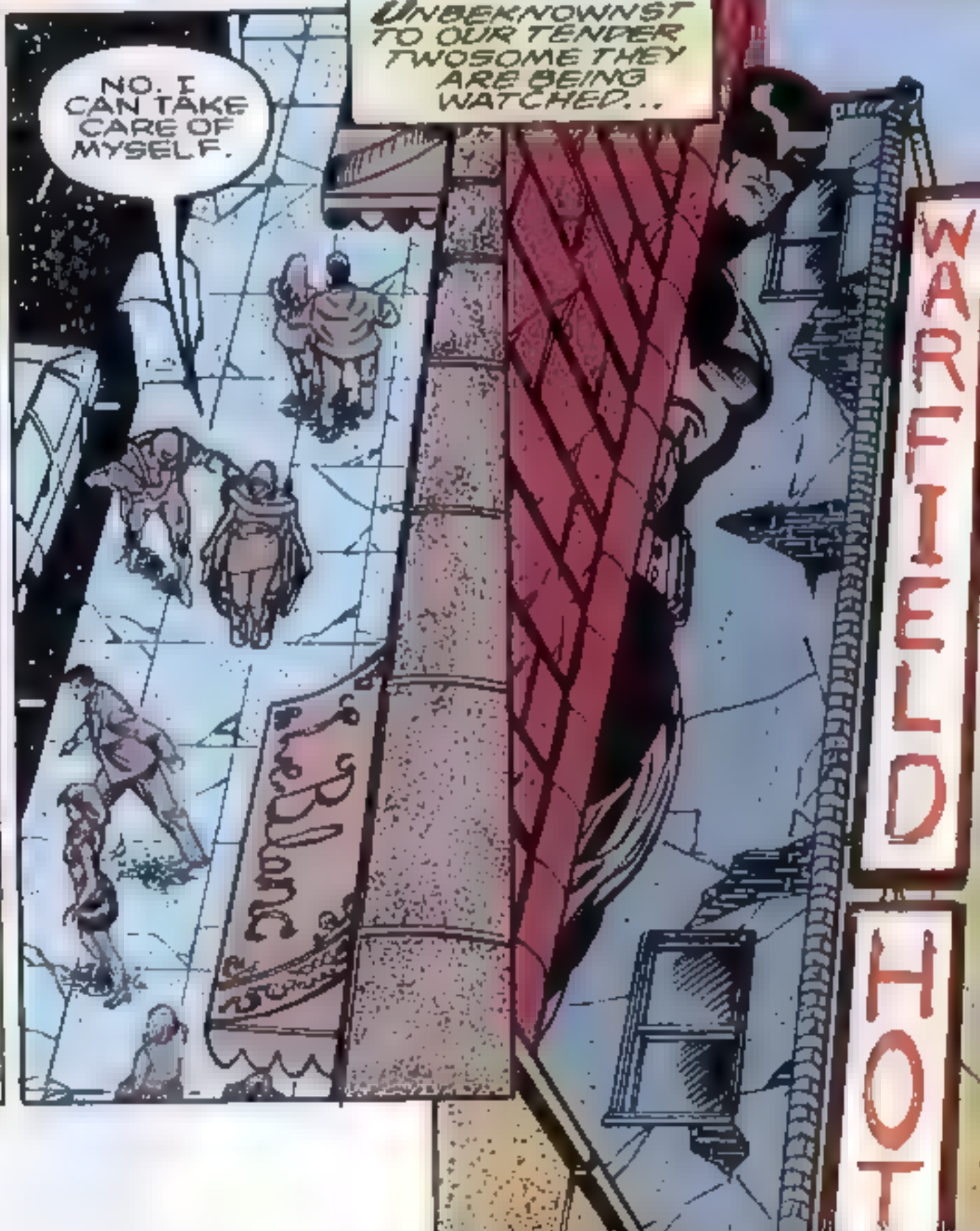
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE... THE INCIDENT.



IT'S OKAY, OLIVER. YOU CAN SAY "SHOOTING." I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT IT.*

HERE, LET ME HELP YOU--

* JANE WAS HIT BY A STRAY BULLET DURING A GANG DISPUTE. SEE SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #6 FOR THE WHOLE STORY.--TOM



NO, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

UNBEKNOWNST TO OUR TENDER TWOSOME THEY ARE BEING WATCHED...

...FROM A NEARBY ROOFTOP.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH SPIDER-MAN.

WHICH WASN'T EASY TO DO, WITH HIM CHANGING HIS NAME AND COSTUME--

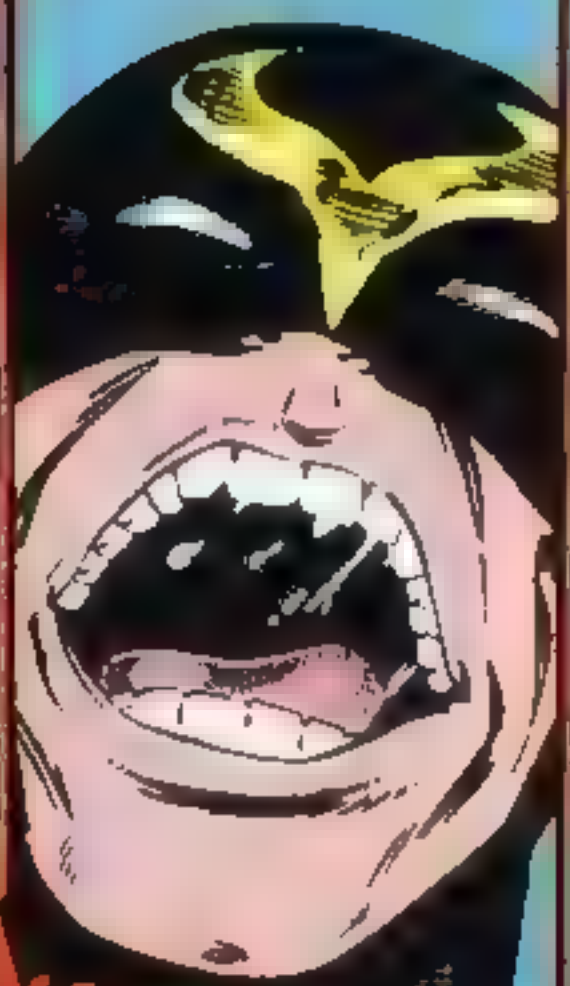
--FIRST TO THE SCARLET SPIDER AND NOW TO THE STEEL SPIDER!

BUT I SAW THROUGH HIS RUSE! AND TODAY, I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY FOR RUINING MY LIFE.

SO VOWS...

THE MASTER OF VENGEANCE!

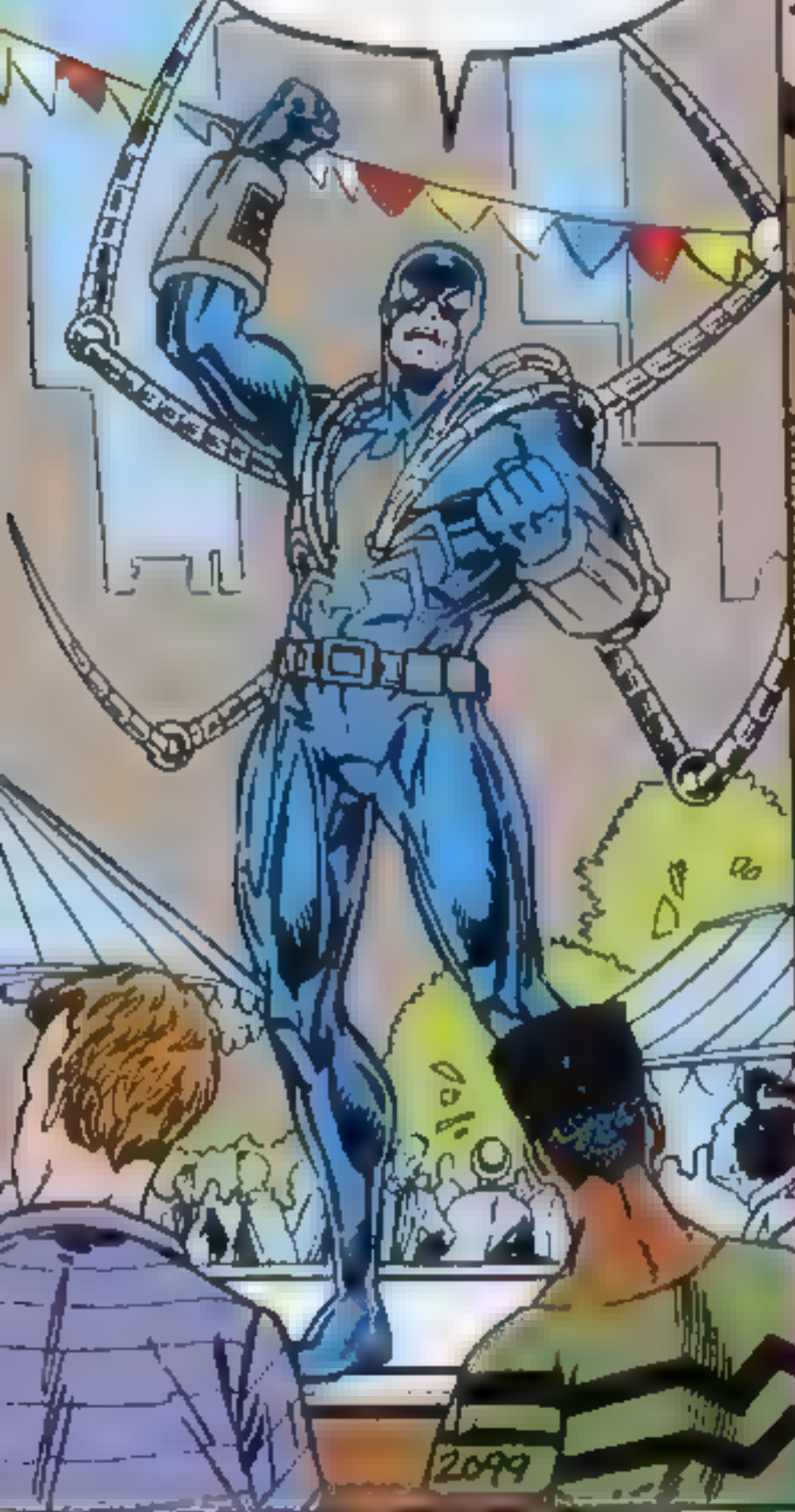
SHA-BOOM!



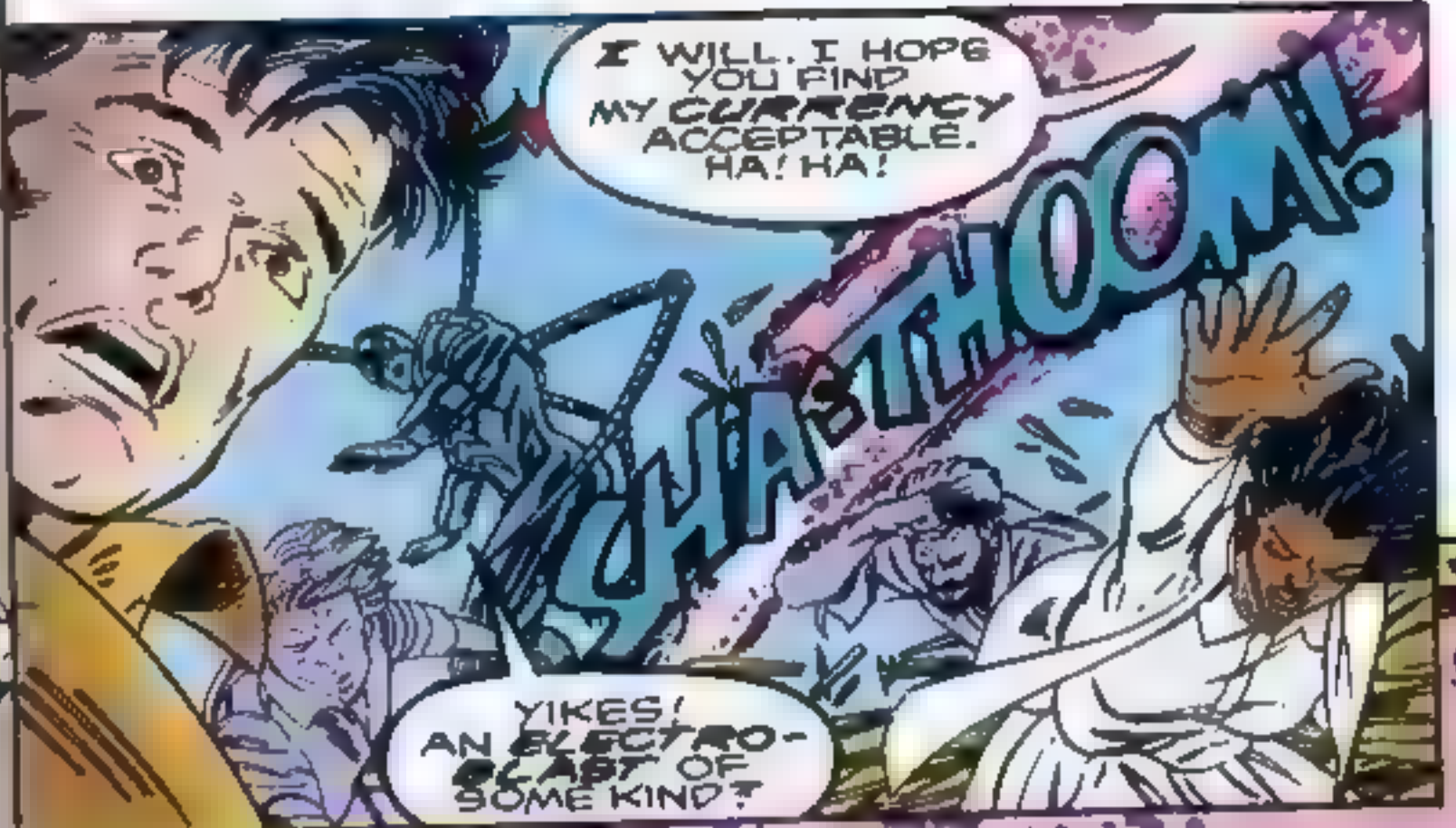
HA HA HA HA HA

MOMENTS LATER BACK
AT THE STREET FAIR...

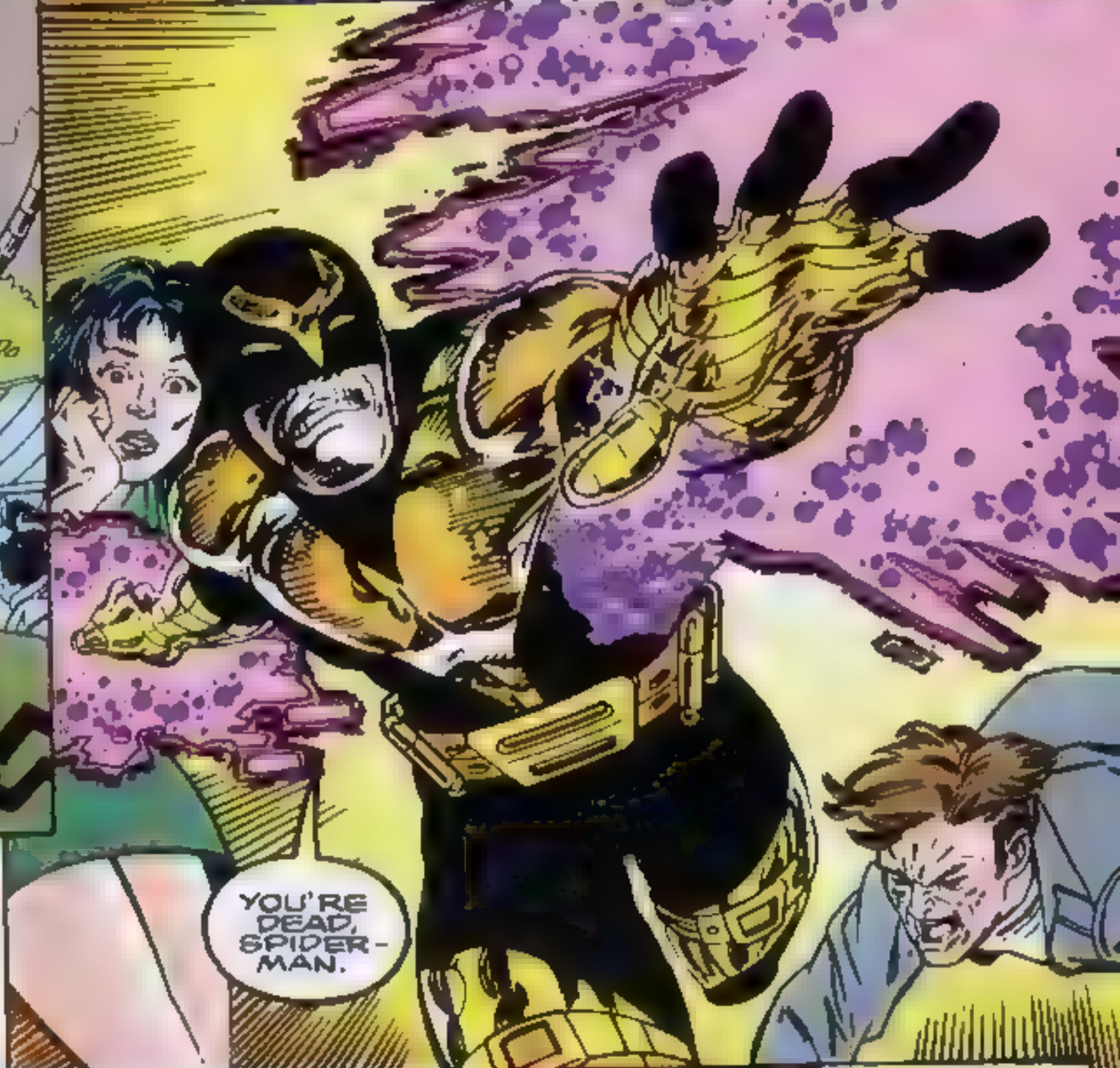
WHO WILL BE
THE NEXT PERSON
TO "CHALLENGE
THE STEEL SPIDER"
AND WIN A PRIZE?
ALL IT TAKES IS
FIVE DOLLARS FOR
A SHOT.



I WILL. I HOPE
YOU FIND
MY CURRENCY
ACCEPTABLE.
HA! HA!



YIKES!
AN ELECTRO-
BLAST OF
SOME KIND?



YOU'RE
DEAD,
SPIDER-
MAN.

SPIDER-MAN? HEY,
BUDDY, YOU'VE GOT
THE WRONG SPIDER.

I CAN SEE
THROUGH
YOUR
DECEPTION,
SPIDER-MAN.

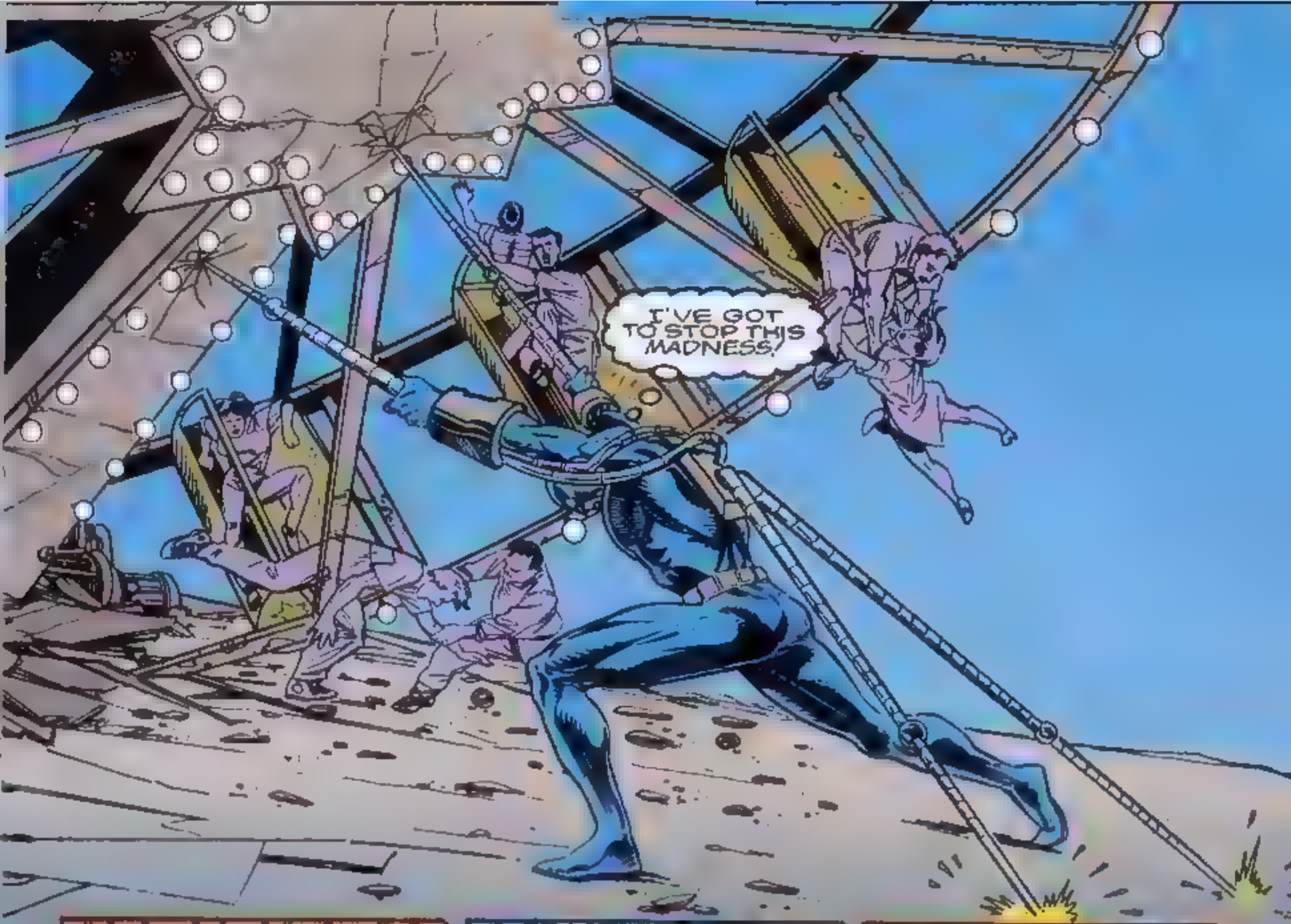
THEN I THINK
YOU NEED A
STRONGER
PRESCRIPTION.
BY THE WAY,
WHO ARE YOU?

BE CAREFUL,
OLIVER...

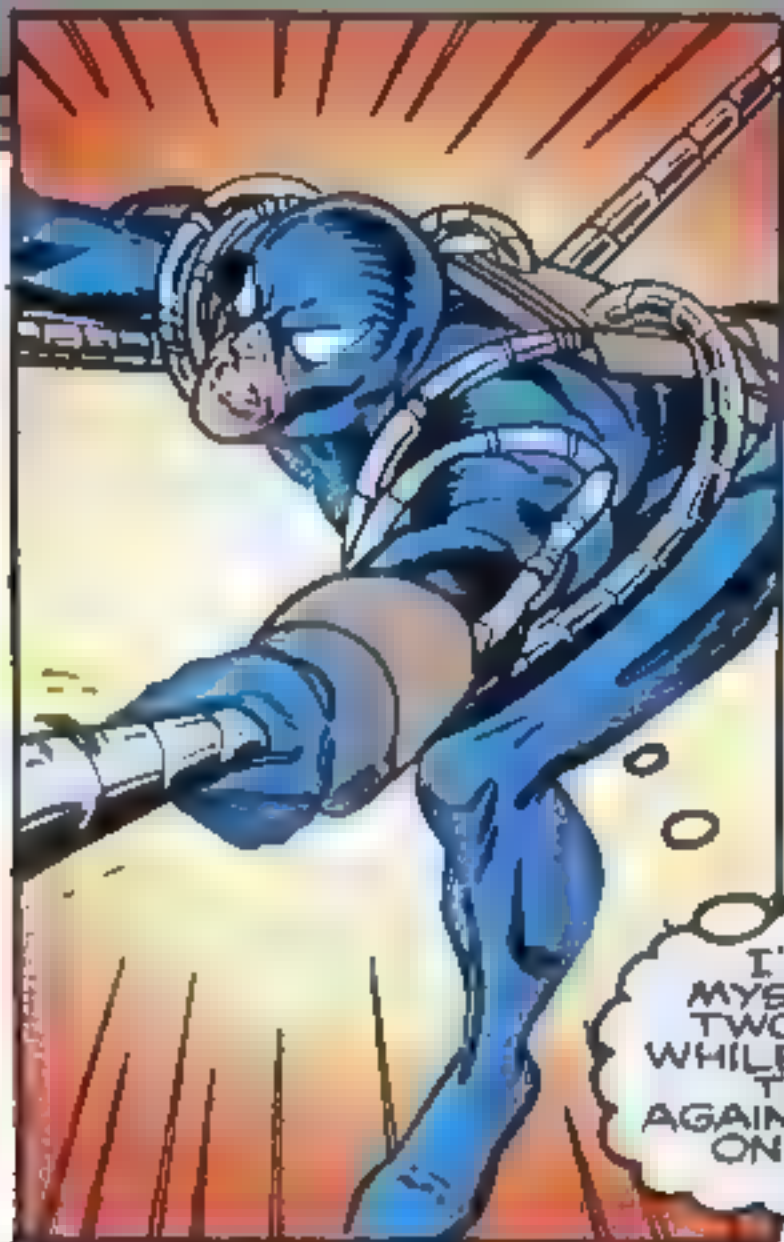
... I DON'T
WANT TO
LOSE YOU.



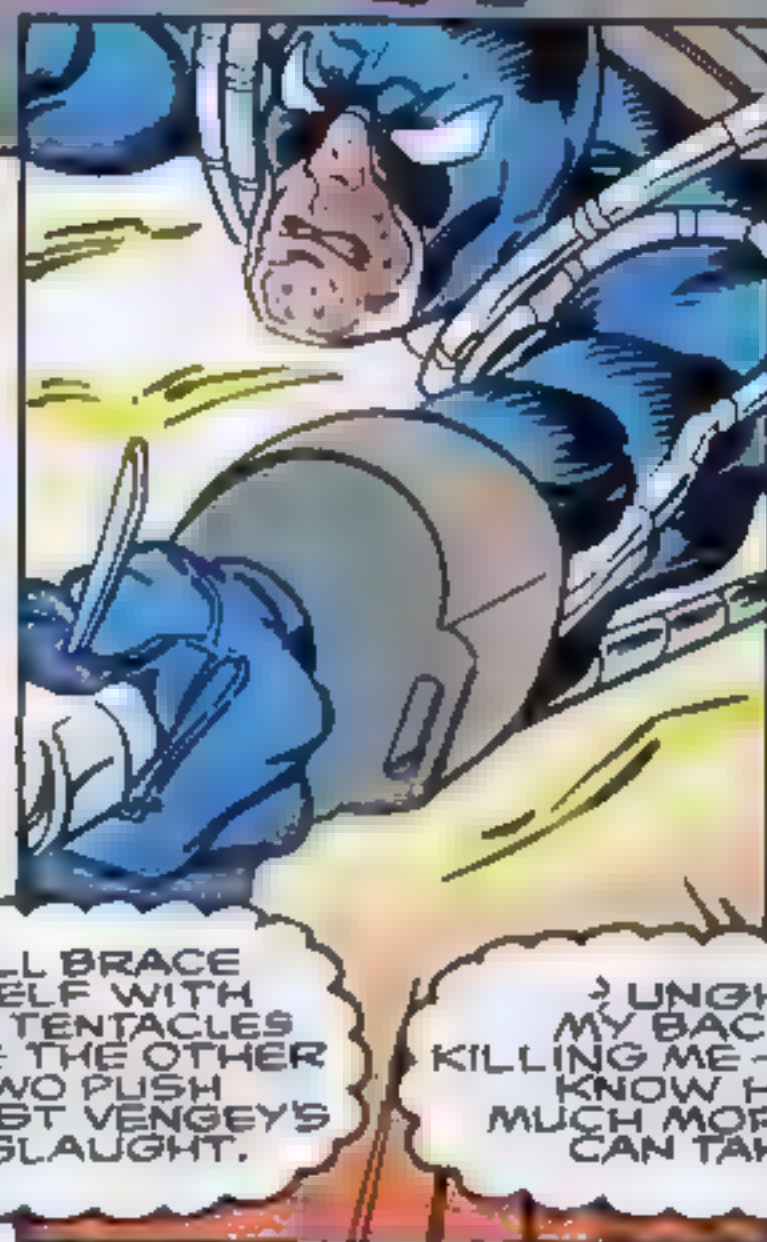




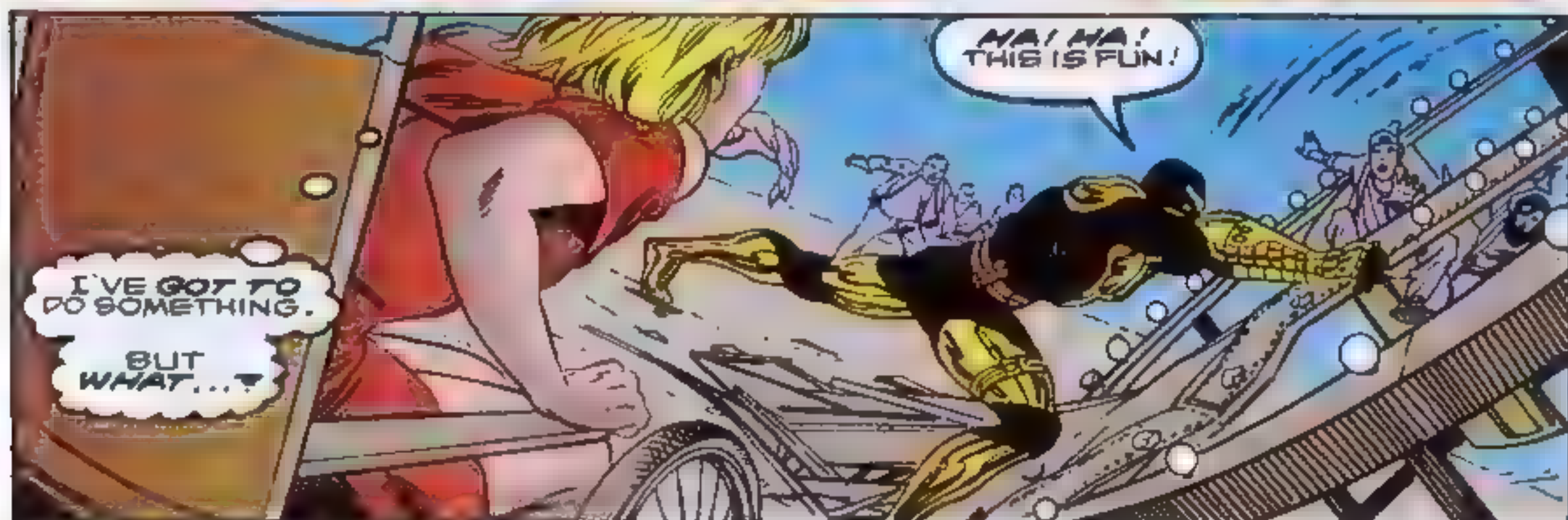
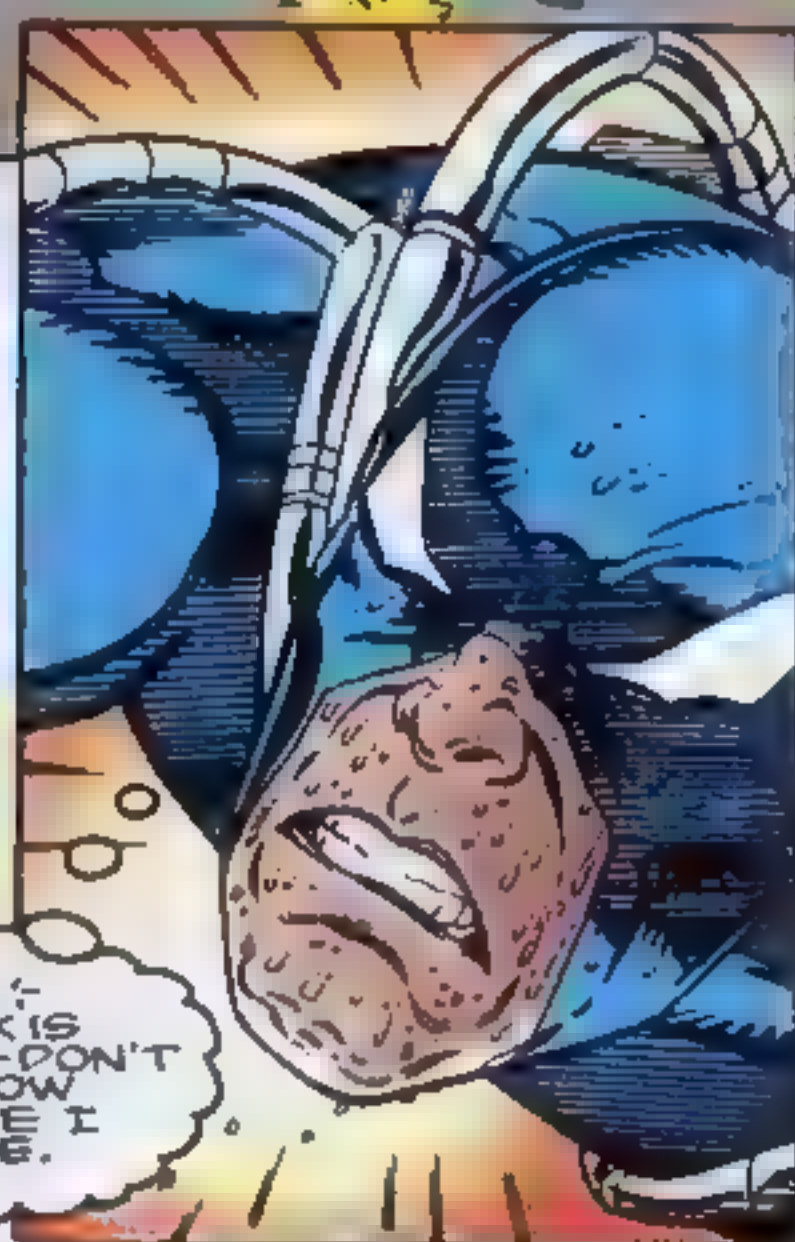
I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS MADNESS!



I'LL BRACE MYSELF WITH TWO TENTACLES WHILE THE OTHER TWO PUSH AGAINST VENGEY'S ONSLAUGHT.



UUGH! MY BACK IS KILLING ME--DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN TAKE.



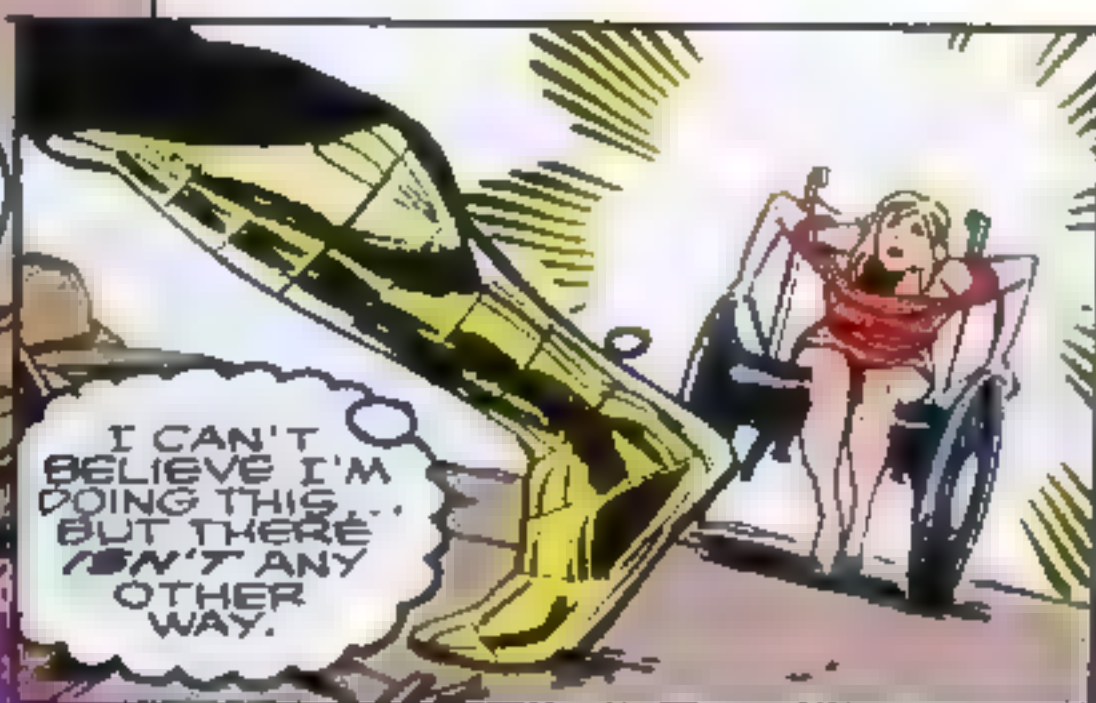
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING. BUT WHAT...?

HA! HA! THIS IS FUN!

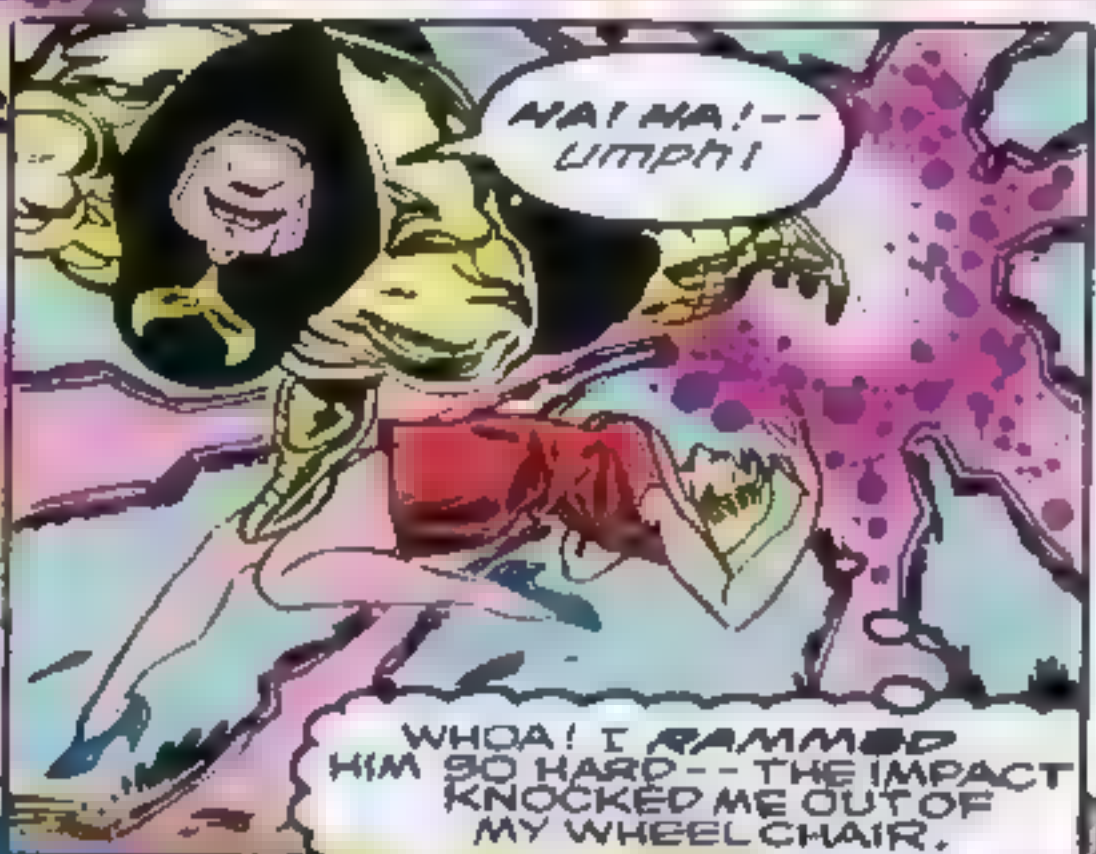


I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, SPIDER-MAN, YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB OF KEEPING ME FROM TOPPLING THE FERRIS WHEEL OVER...

...BUT, LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO ONCE I **ELECTRIFY** IT. I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE OUTCOME PRETTY **SHOCKING**.



I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS... BUT THERE **ISN'T** ANY OTHER WAY.



HA! HA! -- **UMPH!**

WHOA! I **RAMMED** HIM SO HARD -- THE IMPACT KNOCKED ME OUT OF MY WHEELCHAIR.



JANE!

HE'S GOING TO KILL HER. I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, BUT I HAVE TO RIGHT THE FERRIS WHEEL FIRST --

--SAVE THESE PEOPLE!

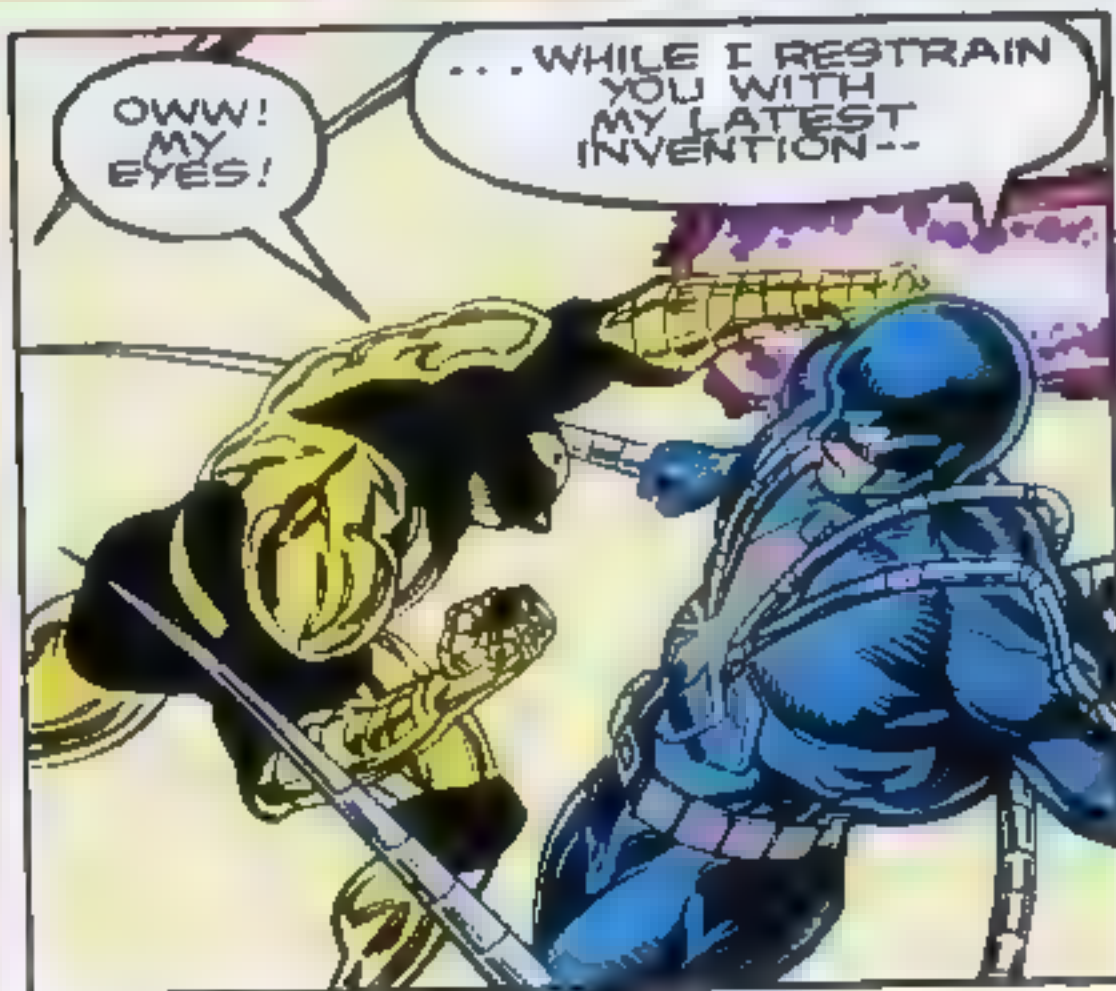
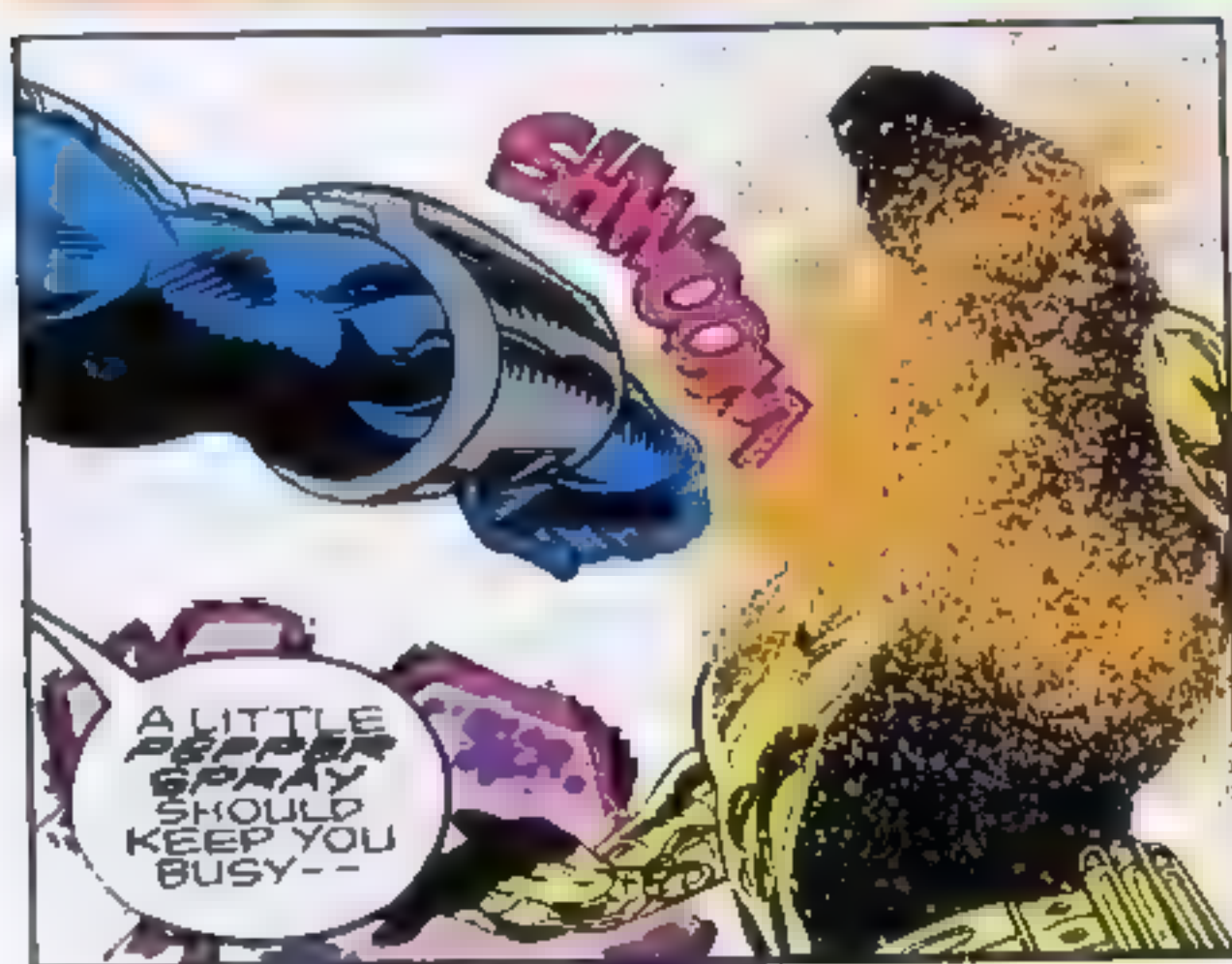
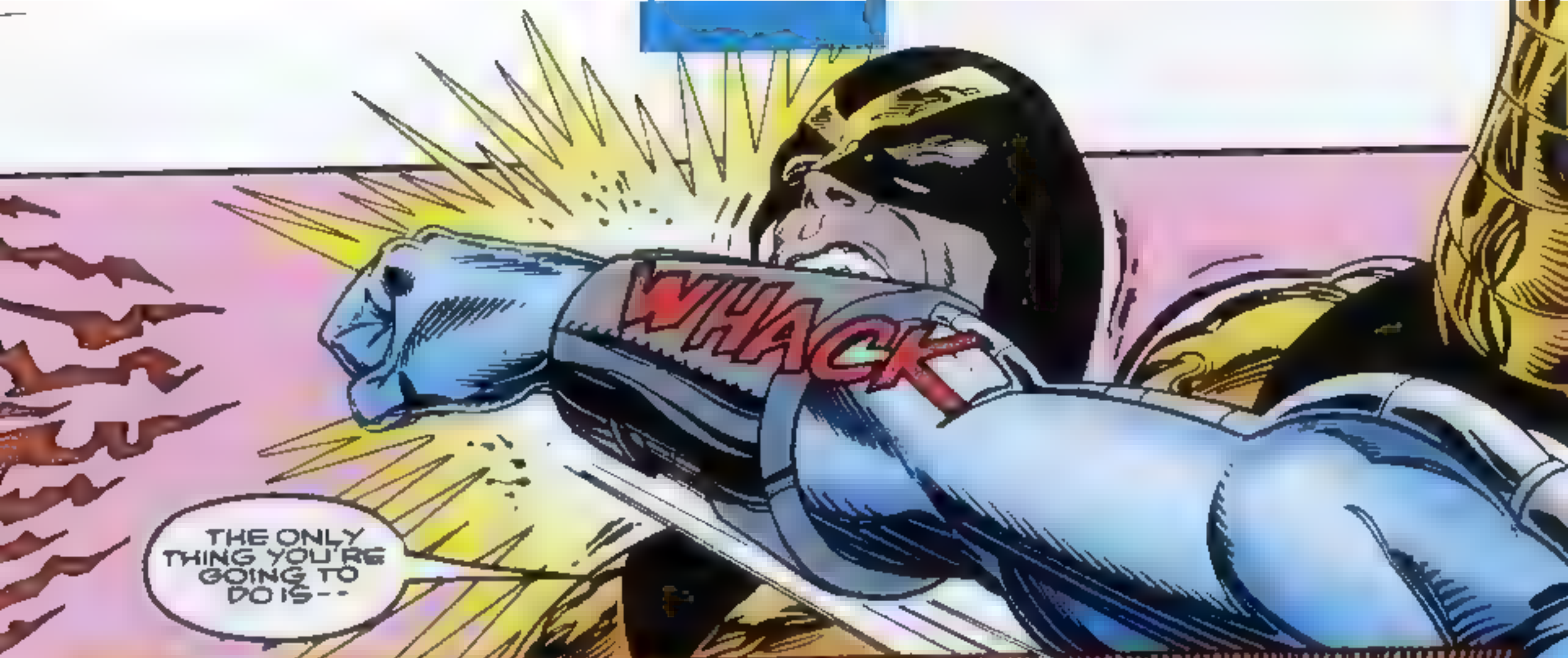


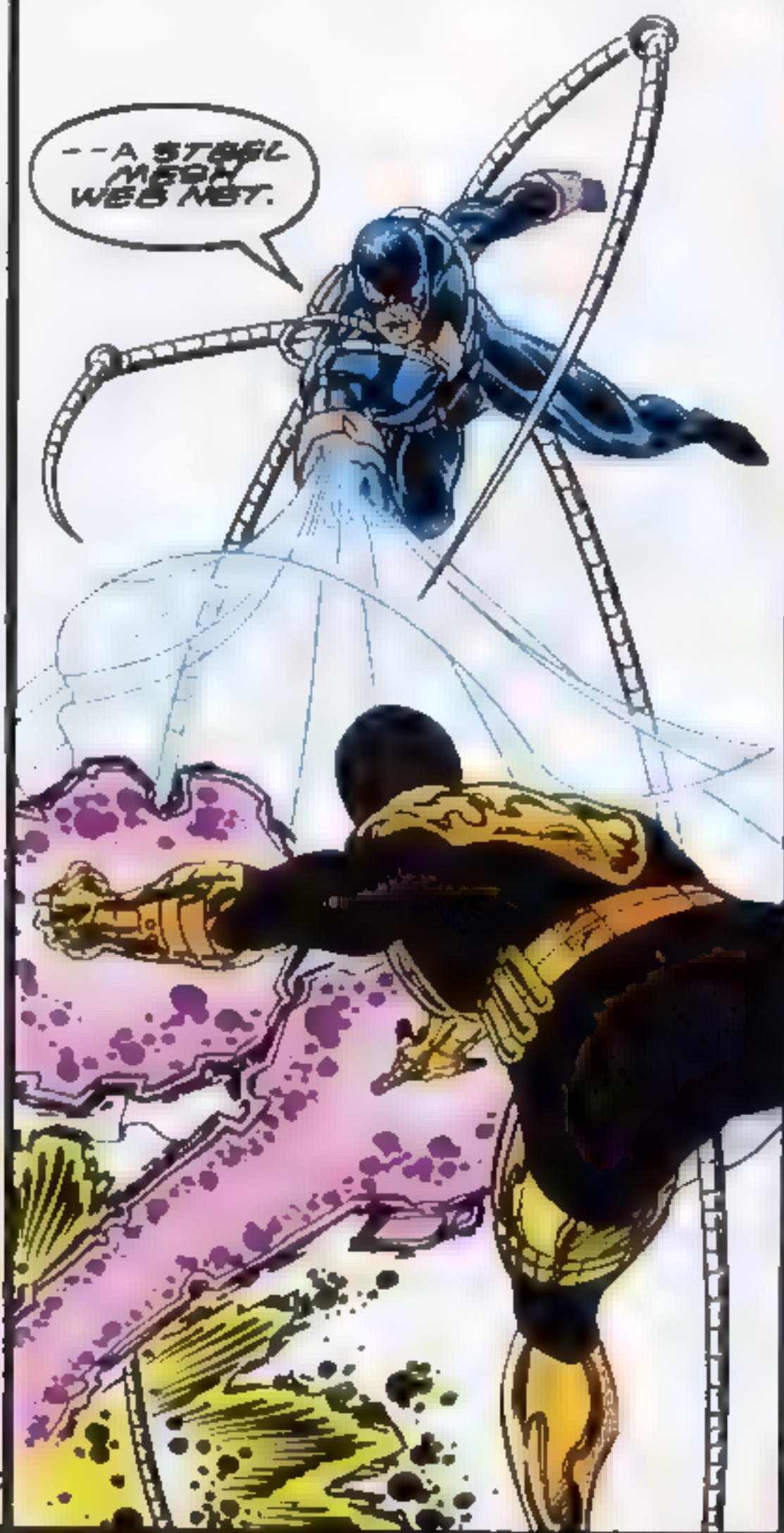
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT, GIRLIE --

-- WITH YOUR LIFE!



YEAH, I'M GONNA KILL YOU REAL GOOD --





--A STEEL
MESH
WEB NET.



NO, NOT
AGAIN.
I CAN'T
LOSE
AGAIN!

CURSE YOU,
SPIDER-MAN!
I'LL GET YOU...

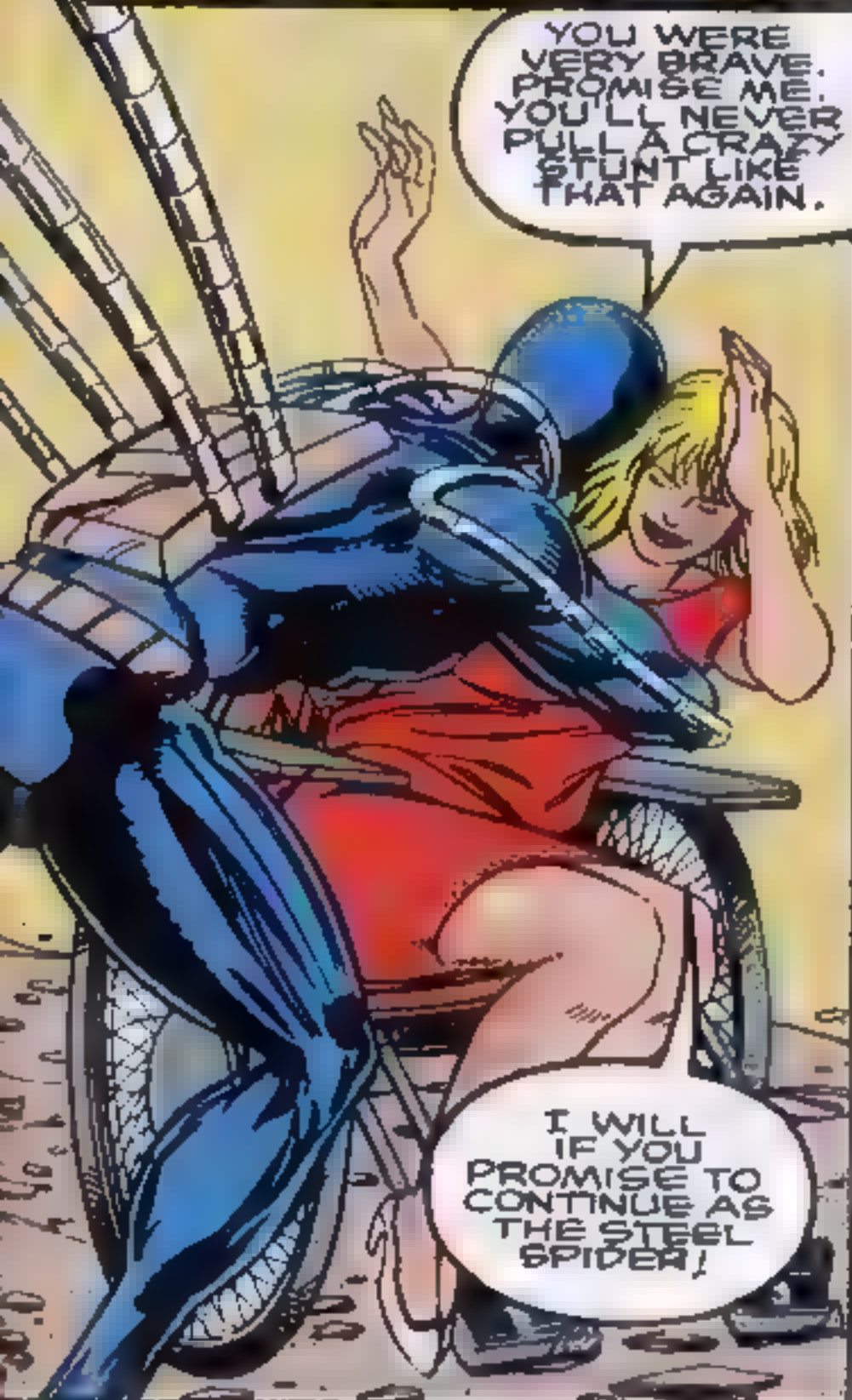


...EVENTUALLY...



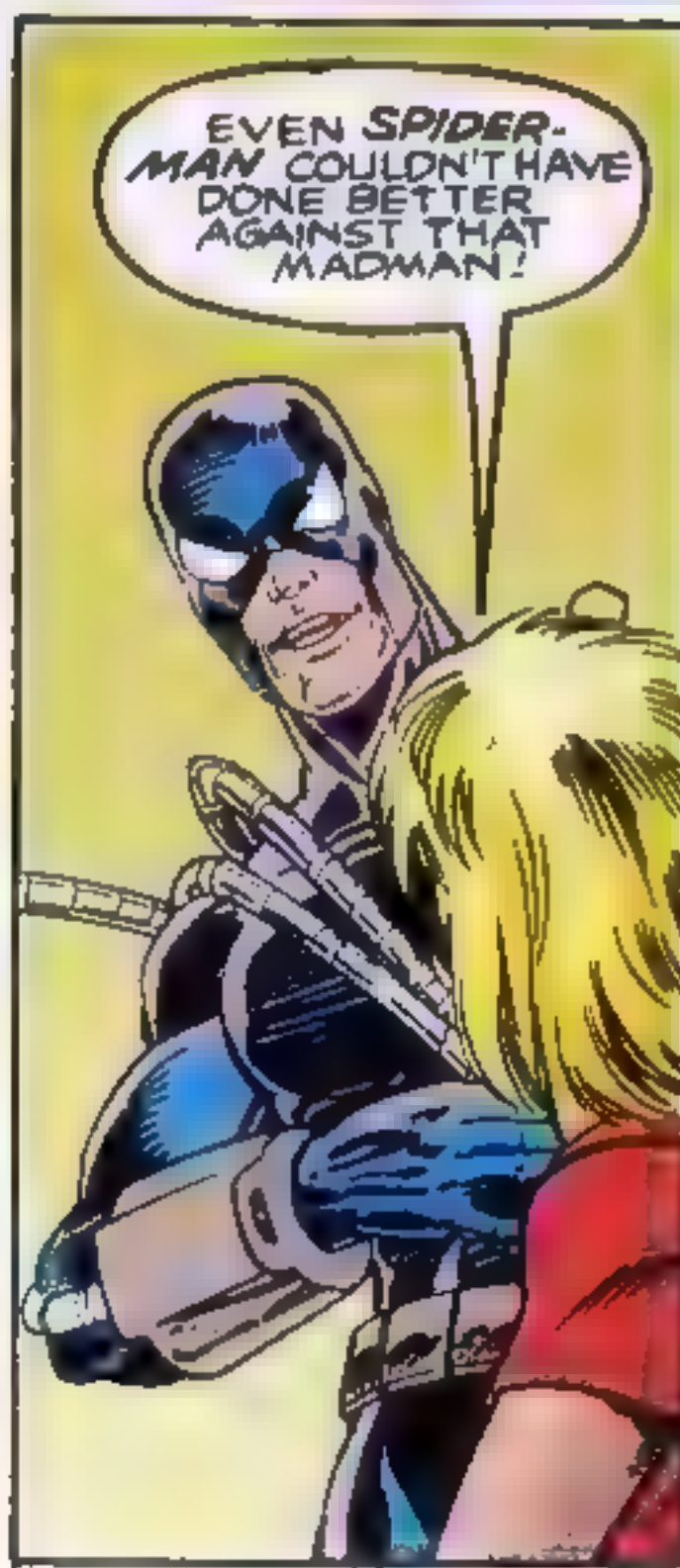
JANE, ARE
YOU
ALL RIGHT?

YES,
NOW
THAT IT'S
OVER.



YOU WERE
VERY BRAVE.
PROMISE ME,
YOU'LL NEVER
PULL A CRAZY
STUNT LIKE
THAT AGAIN.

I WILL
IF YOU
PROMISE TO
CONTINUE AS
THE STEEL
SPIDER!



EVEN SPIDER-
MAN COULDN'T HAVE
DONE BETTER
AGAINST THAT
MADMAN!



YEAH...MAYBE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

THE STEEL
SPIDER IS HERE
TO STAY!

THE END
(FOR NOW)

FOREST HILLS CEMETERY...

IT'S NOT AS LATE AS IT LOOKS.

OTHERS FIND SHELTER WHERE THEY CAN.

TIME TO PUT THE GHOSTS TO REST, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

FOUGHT TOO LONG AND HARD TO MAKE A PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR BEN REILLY THESE PAST FEW YEARS...

DUSK FELL WITH THE RAIN THIS EARLY SPRING EVE. THOSE WHO HAVE HOMES ARE THERE ALREADY, DRYING THEIR FEET AND WARMING THEIR HEARTS...

MAY PARKER
SHE TAUGHT
US
LOVE

...TO RISK
BURYING MYSELF
IN WHAT-IFS AND
COULD-HAVE-BEENS
ALL OVER AGAIN
NOW.

I'VE KNOWN ALL
ALONG THERE NEVER
WAS--AND NEVER
WILL BE--ROOM FOR
ME AMONG THE
PARKERS...





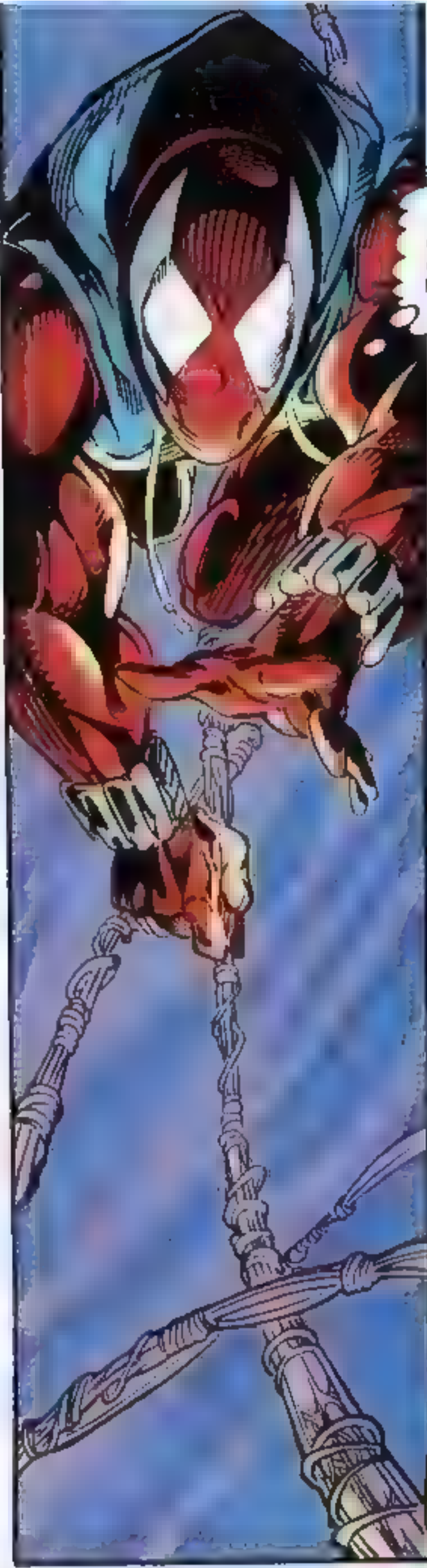
... BUT NEW
YORK'S A
BIG CITY!

THWIP

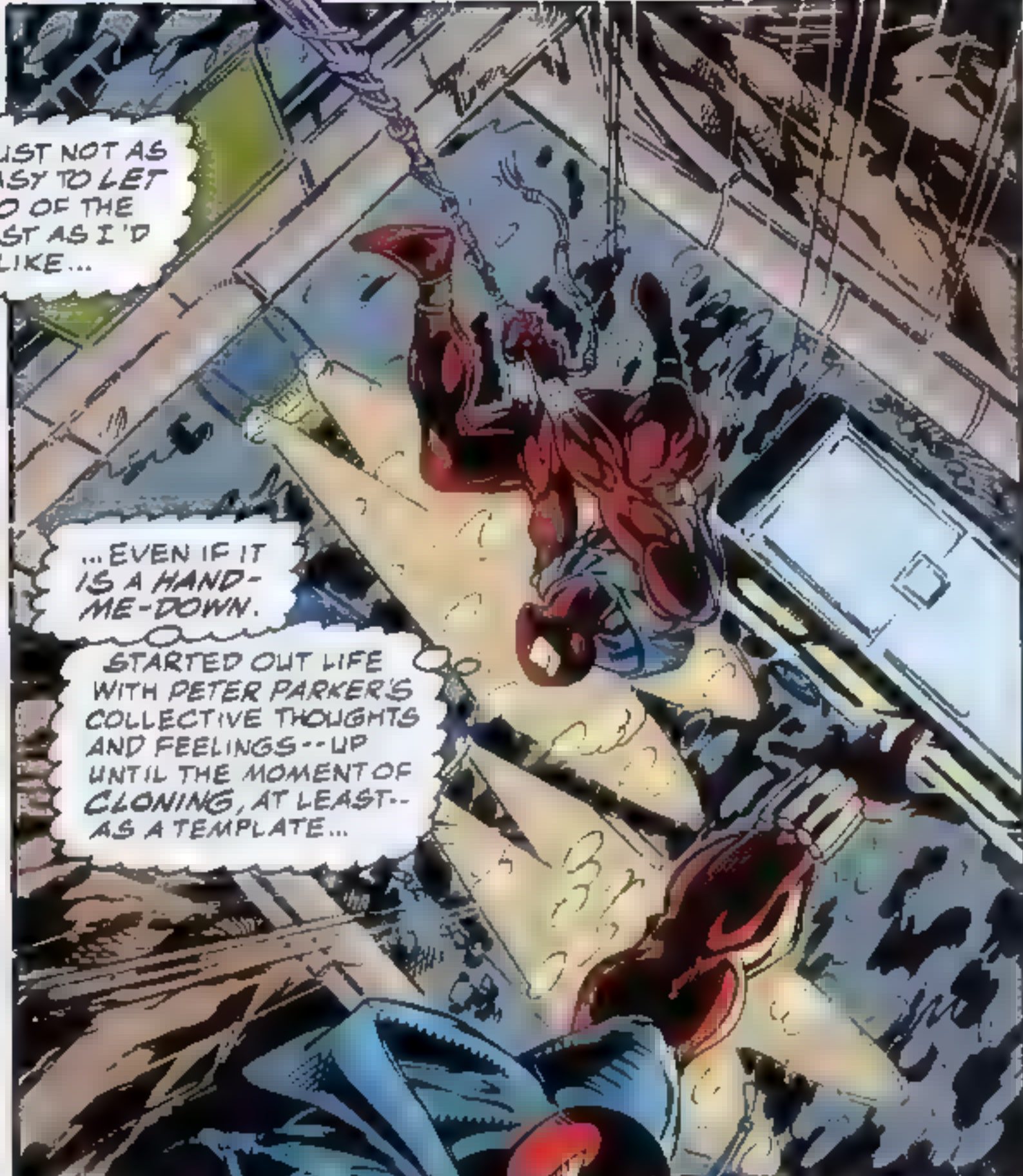
Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

SPIDER-MAN GHOSTS

TERRY KAVANAGH-- PLOT
KAVANAGH/LACKEY--SCRIPT
PHIL GOSIER--BREAKDOWNS
GREG ADAMS AND
TOM CHRISTOPHER -- FINISHERS
CHIA CHI WANG--COLORIST
KEN LOPEZ--LETTERER
TOM BREVOORT--EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH--GROUP EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY--EDITOR IN CHIEF




JUST NOT AS
EASY TO LET
GO OF THE
PAST AS I'D
LIKE...



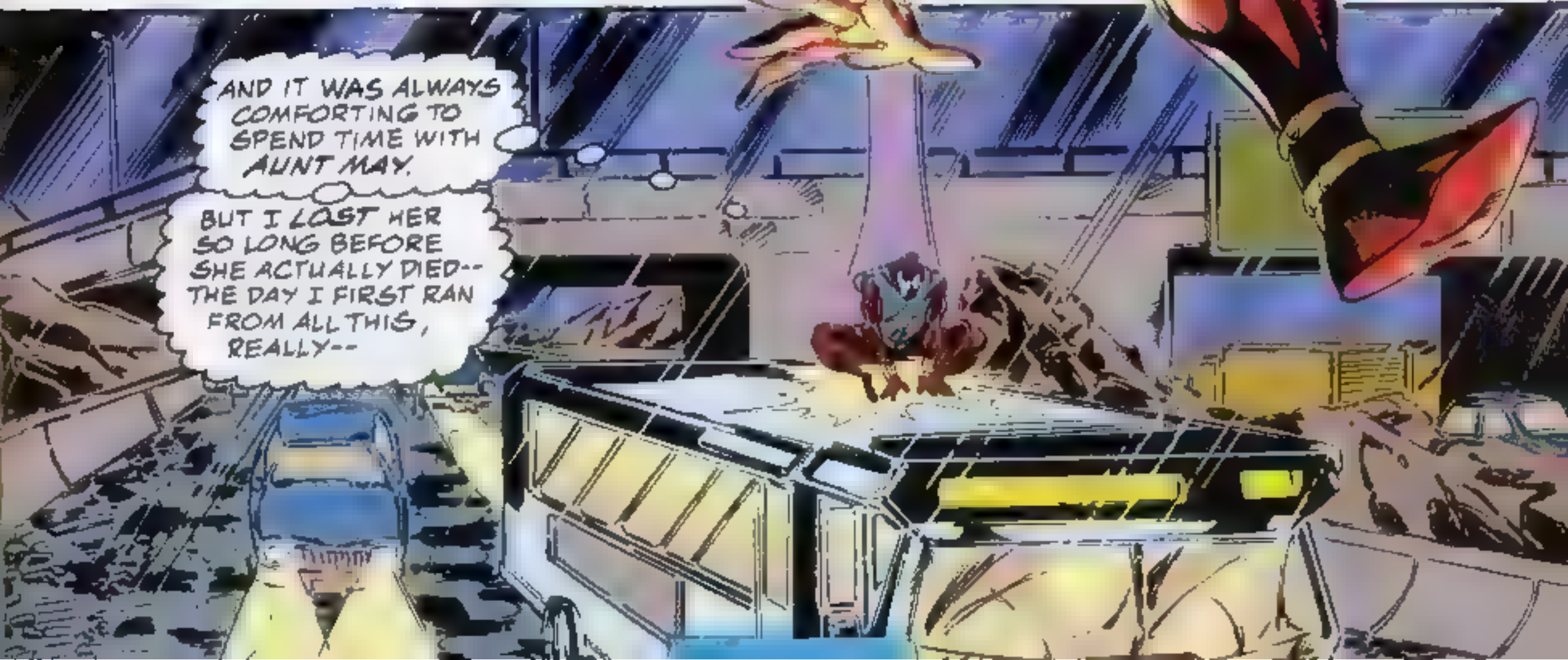
...EVEN IF IT
IS A HAND-
ME-DOWN.

STARTED OUT LIFE
WITH PETER PARKER'S
COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS
AND FEELINGS--UP
UNTIL THE MOMENT OF
CLONING, AT LEAST--
AS A TEMPLATE...




...AND WE'RE
BOTH STILL DRAWN
INTO EACH OTHER'S
LIVES SOMEHOW.
TANGLED IN EACH
OTHER'S WEBS.

PROBABLY
ALWAYS
WILL BE.



AND IT WAS ALWAYS
COMFORTING TO
SPEND TIME WITH
AUNT MAY.

BUT I LOST HER
SO LONG BEFORE
SHE ACTUALLY DIED--
THE DAY I FIRST RAN
FROM ALL THIS,
REALLY--

A comic book panel showing Deadpool in his red and blue suit, crouching on a city street at night. He is looking towards the viewer with a wide-eyed, intense expression. In the background, there is a white van and a yellow car parked on the street. The scene is lit with streetlights, creating a moody atmosphere. The text is in speech bubbles.

--I'M ALREADY
USED TO CARRYING
MAY INSIDE ME
WHEREVER I GO.

A LIVING,
BREATHING
MEMORY
OF LOVE.

THE PARKERS
ARE A PART
OF MY PAST--
SECOND-HAND,
OR NOT--

--BUT ONLY
PART OF IT
NOW.

THWIP
WEST SIDE
HIGHWAY

ALL THOSE YEARS
AWAY-- WANDERING,
ROOTLESS, SEARCH-
ING EVERYWHERE
FOR NOTHING--

--CERTAINLY
EXPANDED MY
HORIZONS A
BIT.

--AND LOST TO
AS MANY AS I
WON, ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED...

...BUT I FACED
EVERY SINGLE
DEMON
STRAIGHT IN
THE EYE...

BATTLED A LOT
OF DRAGONS ON
THAT ROAD-- FROM
WITHIN AND WITHOUT--
AND BOTH SIDES AT
ONCE AS OFTEN AS
NOT--



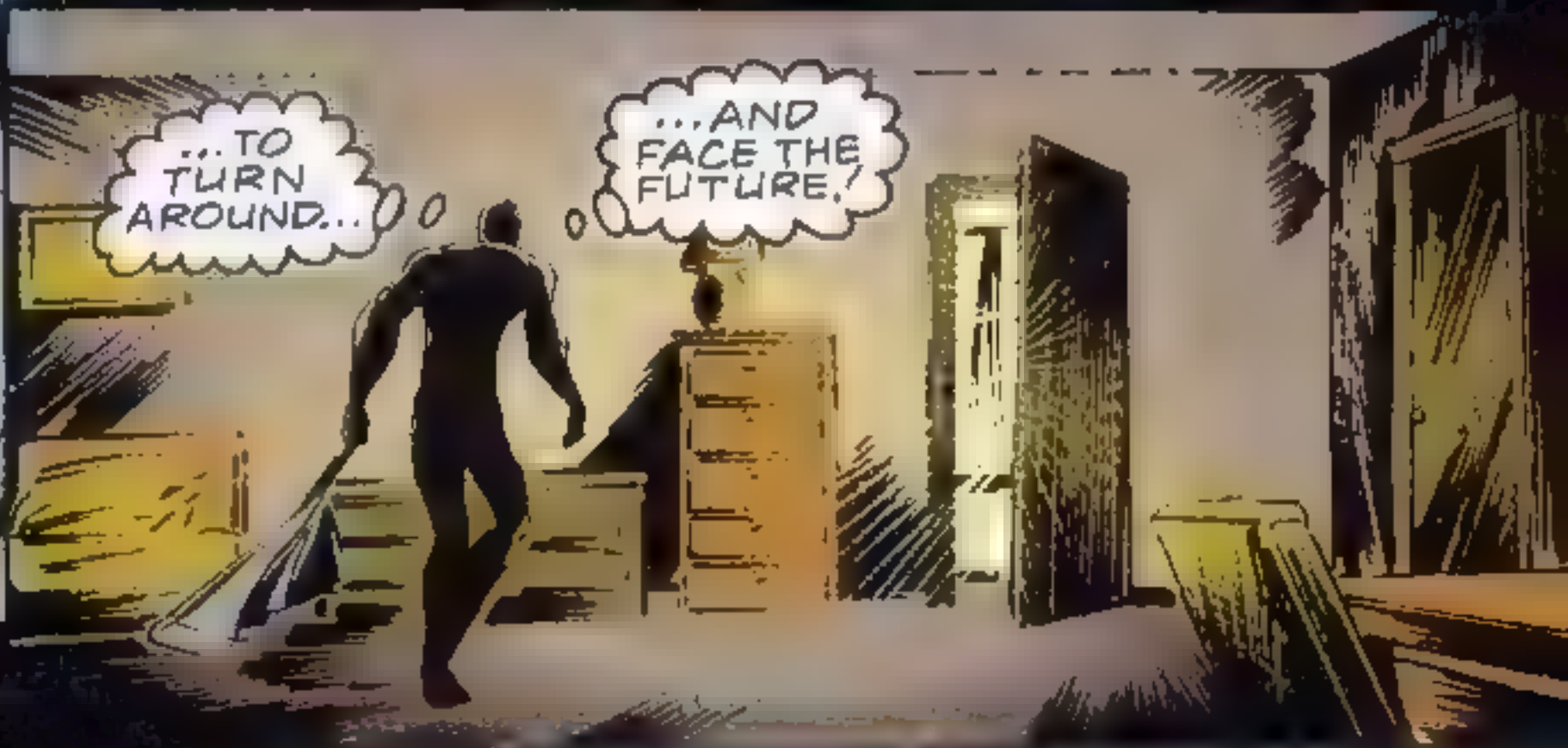
...SOON
AS THEY
CAUGHT UP
TO ME!



THAT'S THE
HEART OF MY
PROBLEM-- I'VE
GOTTEN TOO USED
TO RUNNING
AWAY FROM
MY LIFE!



WELL, HERE'S
WHERE WE FIND
OUT IF BEN
REILLY HAS
WHAT IT
TAKES...



...TO
TURN
AROUND...

...AND
FACE THE
FUTURE!

AT A NEARBY PIER
WITHOUT A PERMIT,
ABOARD A YACHT
WITH NO NAME...

...FORCES
GATHER.

SHELL AND SHOT.

A CARRIER AND A
LAUNCHER. TWIN BROTHERS,
TRAINED IN THE USE OF HEAVY-
WEAPONS BY THEIR EMBATTLED
MOTHERLAND.

BOMBARDIER.

WIRED TO KILL, AND
PADDED TO PROTECT.
A DEMO-EXPERT WITH
A PERILOUS PASSION
FOR HER WORK.

FLARE.

AMERICA-FIRSTER.
FOREVER SILENCED
BY THE SAME FLAMES
THAT EMPOWER HIM.

STAMPEDE.

MONEY-FIRSTER.
SILVER-MEDAL RUNNER
WITH A DECIDEDLY
DANGEROUS NEED TO
SUCCEED.


CLASH.

HAND-TO-HAND SPECIALIST,
WITH COMBAT EXPERIENCE IN AN
UNAUTHORIZED ARMY. SECOND IN
COMMAND ONLY TO...

CORDITE.

THE MAN
WITH THE PLAN
HIMSELF.

SYSTEMS-
CHECK ON
DECK IN TEN,
PEOPLE...



...WE
BREAK AT
DAWN.

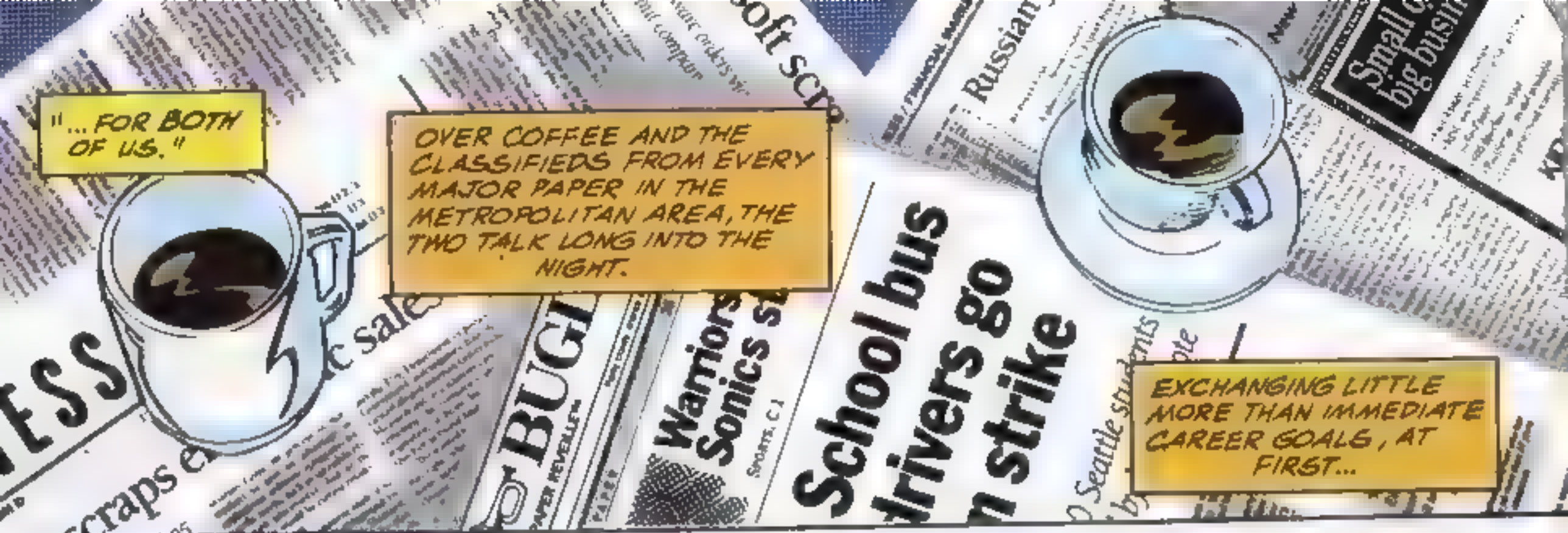
REAL NAMES REMAIN
UNASKED, IDENTITIES
IMMERSED IN THE
TERMINAL TALENTS
OF EACH AND EVERY
AGENT OF--

--**SHADOWFORCE
ALPHA.**

ASSASSINING, TERRORISTS
AND MERCENARIES ALL. THE
HOTTEST AND THE YOUNGEST
OF THE BEST...

...IN A VERY BAD
BUSINESS.

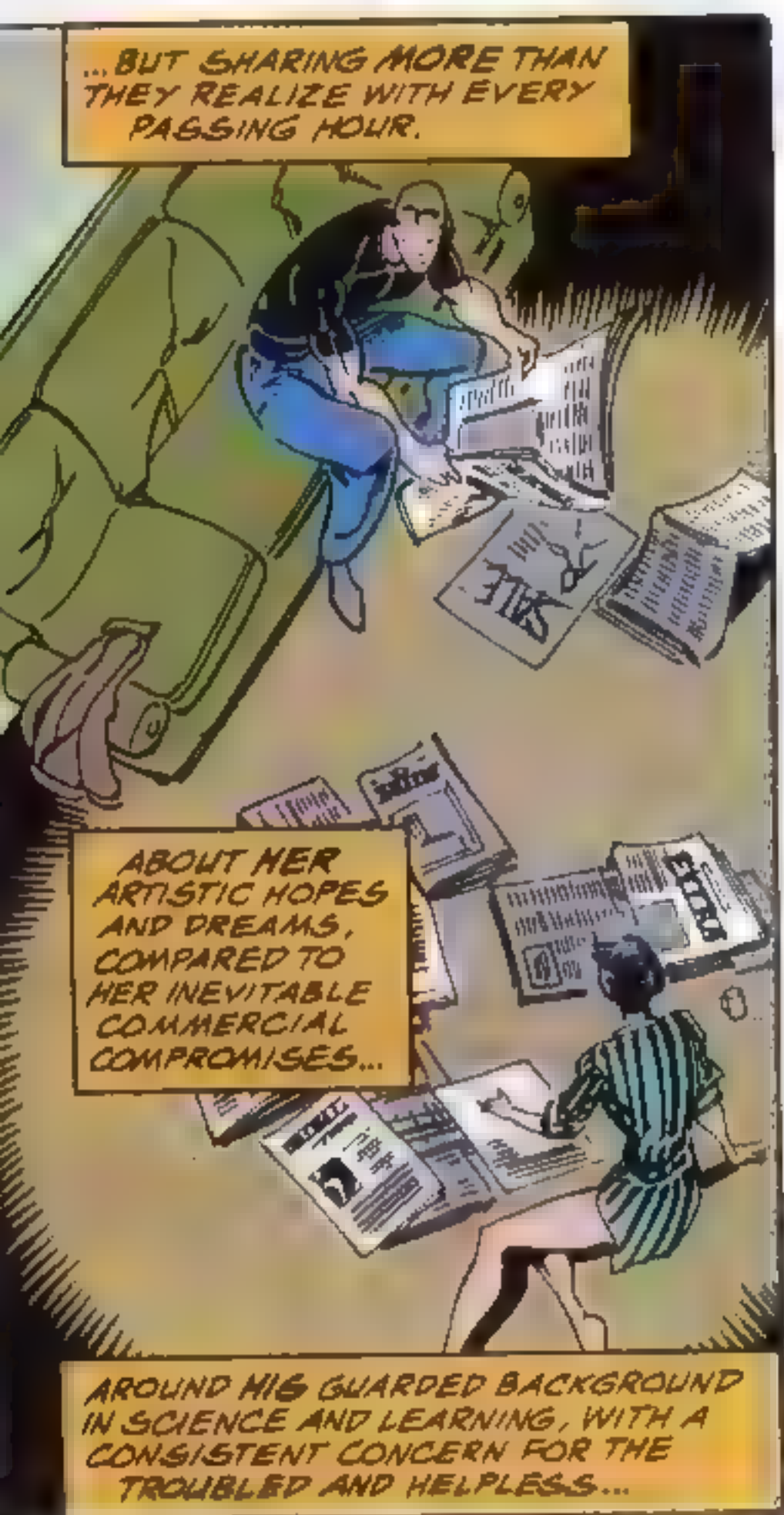
EVERY BAD
BUSINESS.



"...FOR BOTH OF US."

OVER COFFEE AND THE CLASSIFIEDS FROM EVERY MAJOR PAPER IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA, THE TWO TALK LONG INTO THE NIGHT.

EXCHANGING LITTLE MORE THAN IMMEDIATE CAREER GOALS, AT FIRST...



...BUT SHARING MORE THAN THEY REALIZE WITH EVERY PASSING HOUR.

ABOUT HER ARTISTIC HOPES AND DREAMS, COMPARED TO HER INEVITABLE COMMERCIAL COMPROMISES...

AROUND HIS GUARDED BACKGROUND IN SCIENCE AND LEARNING, WITH A CONSISTENT CONCERN FOR THE TROUBLED AND HELPLESS...



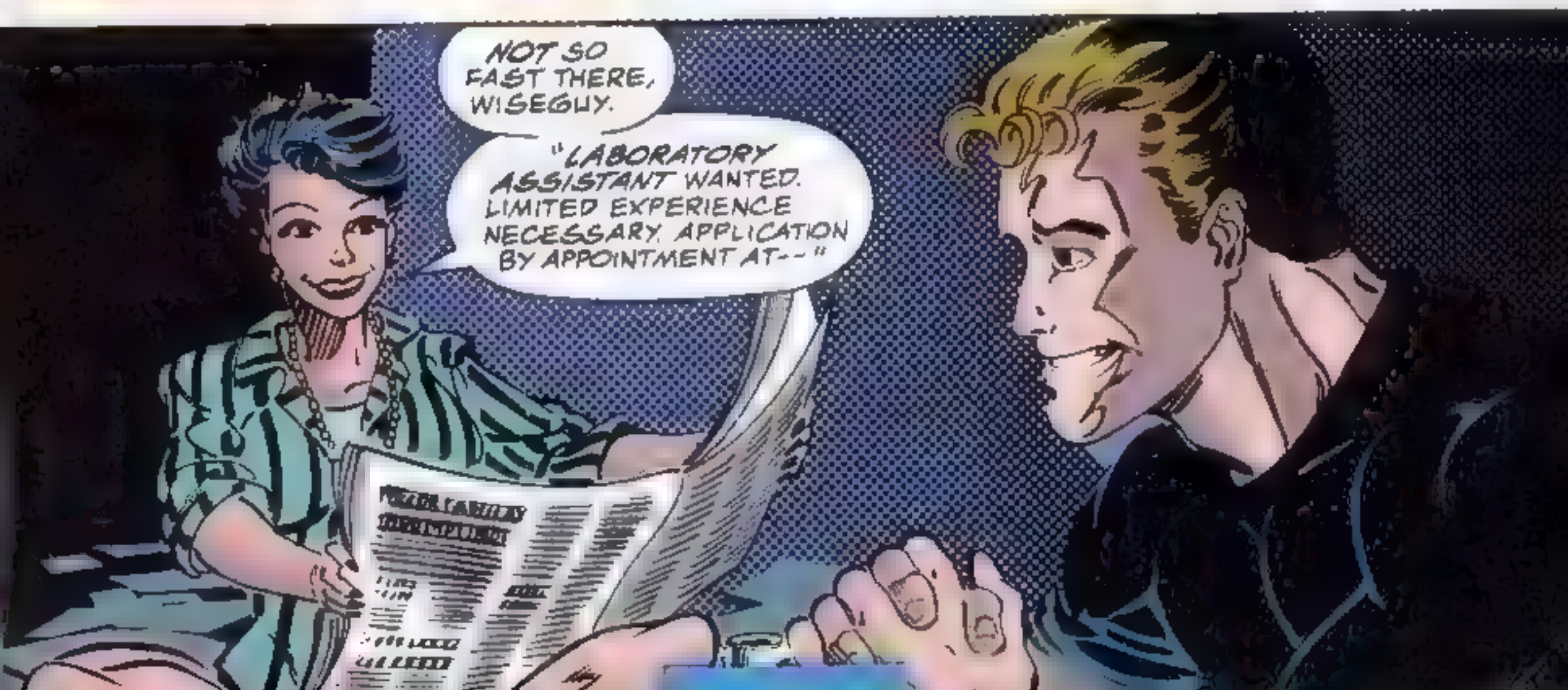
AROUND AND ABOUT THE IMPENDING PERILS OF POVERTY.

I GIVE UP.

LEAST WE FOUND A COUPLE OF FREELANCE POSSIBILITIES FOR YOU OUT THERE--

ONLY IF YOU COUNT HOUSE-PAINTING.

--BUT I'M JUST PLAIN UNEMPLOYABLE.



NOT SO FAST THERE, WISEGUY.

"LABORATORY ASSISTANT WANTED. LIMITED EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. APPLICATION BY APPOINTMENT AT--"

THE EXTERIOR
FACADE OF
EMPIRE STATE
HOSPITAL IS
A BLANK
ANONYMOUS
SURFACE...

... CONCEALING THE PRIVATE
LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLES
OF THOSE WITHIN.

AS I SAID,
MR. ARMSTRONG,
COL. BROGA'S
CONDITION IS
SATISFACTORY.

SATISFACTORY IS
WHAT IT SAYS ON GRADE
SCHOOL REPORT CARDS,
DR. PURL.

BUT THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT
WANTS A SLIGHTLY
MORE IN-DEPTH
DIAGNOSIS FOR ITS
CONSIDERABLE TIME
AND EFFORT.

U.S. INTERESTS
IN THE COLONEL'S
SOUTH AMERICAN
NATION MUST NOT BE
JEOPARDIZED!

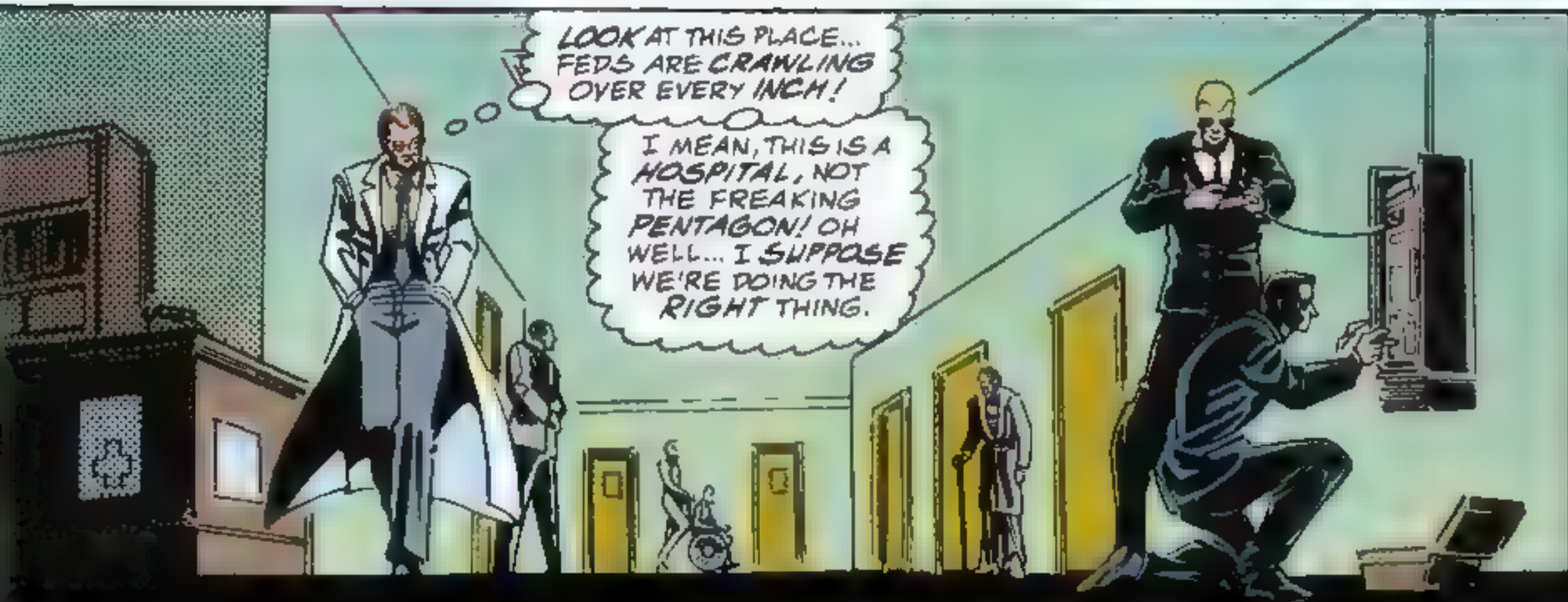
MEDICINE AND
SECURITY ARE
ART FORMS UNTO
THEMSELVES, MR.
ARMSTRONG. AND,
WHILE I APPRECIATE
YOUR PRIORITY--

--THE SAFEGUARDING
OF AN INTERNATIONALLY
HUNTED POLITICAL
REFUGEE LEADER--

--YOU MUST UNDERSTAND
MINE. THERE ARE NO
PERIMETERS TO SECURE,
OR WITNESSES TO SILENCE.
IT'S NOT AS EASY AS
INITIATING POLICY OR
DISTRIBUTING AN "EYES
ONLY" BRIEF.

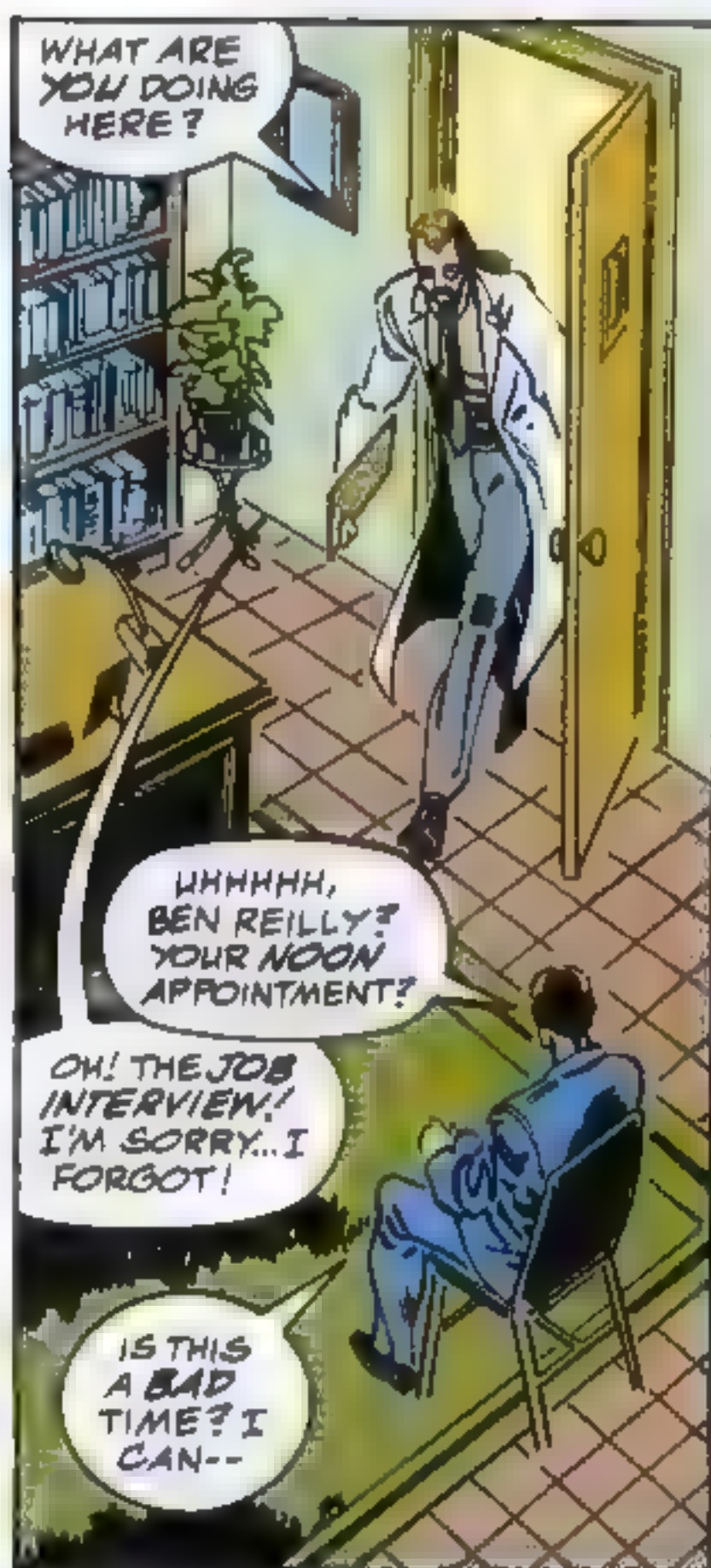
THE COLONEL
WILL EITHER
RESPOND TO HIS
TREATMENTS, OR
HE WILL DIE.

I'M DOING MY
JOB, DOCTOR...
JUST MAKE SURE
YOU DO YOURS.



LOOK AT THIS PLACE...
FEDS ARE CRAWLING
OVER EVERY INCH!

I MEAN, THIS IS A
HOSPITAL, NOT
THE FREAKING
PENTAGON! OH
WELL... I SUPPOSE
WE'RE DOING THE
RIGHT THING.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

UHHHHH,
BEN REILLY?
YOUR NOON
APPOINTMENT?

OH! THE JOB
INTERVIEW!
I'M SORRY... I
FORGOT!

IS THIS
A BAD
TIME? I
CAN--



NOT AT ALL.
THIS WILL ONLY
TAKE A
MINUTE.

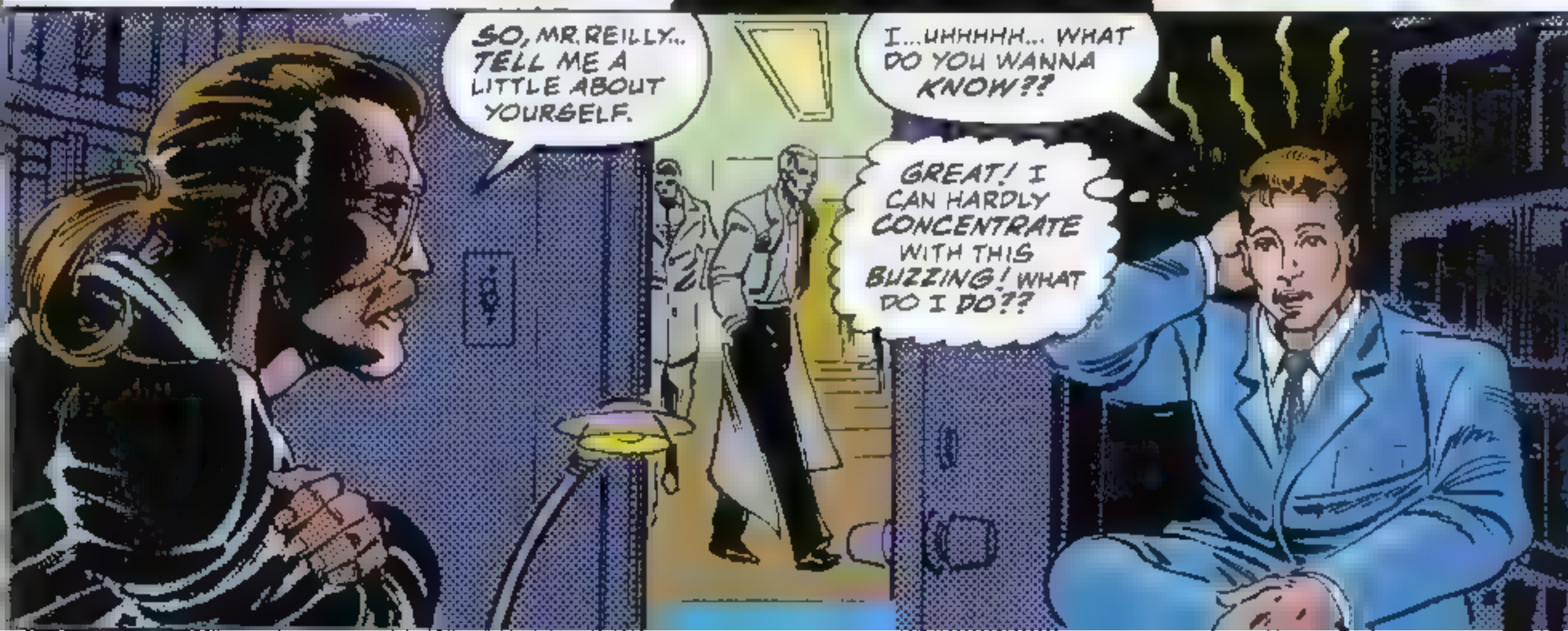
MMMM-HMMM.
QUITE AN
IMPRESSIVE
RESUME FOR
A LAB
ASSISTANT...

AREN'T YOU
AFRAID YOU'D
BE... OVER-
QUALIFIED?

GABBY WAS RIGHT...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE
GOTTEN SO FANCY
WITH MY PHONY
CREDENTIALS! WHY
DIDN'T I LISTEN?



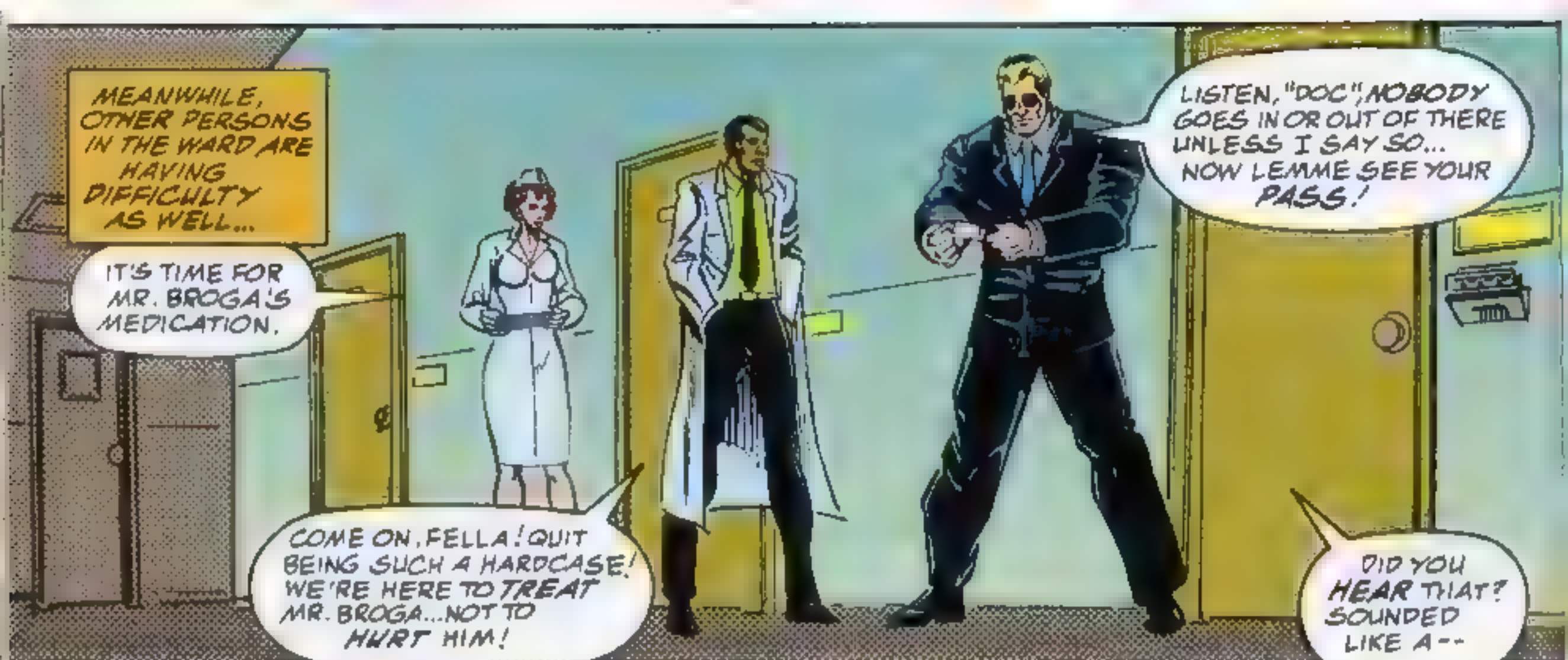
YOW!!
SPIDER-
SENSE!
BUT I DON'T
SEE ANY
DANGER!



SO, MR. REILLY...
TELL ME A
LITTLE ABOUT
YOURSELF.

I... UHHHHH... WHAT
DO YOU WANNA
KNOW??

GREAT! I
CAN HARDLY
CONCENTRATE
WITH THIS
BUZZING! WHAT
DO I DO??



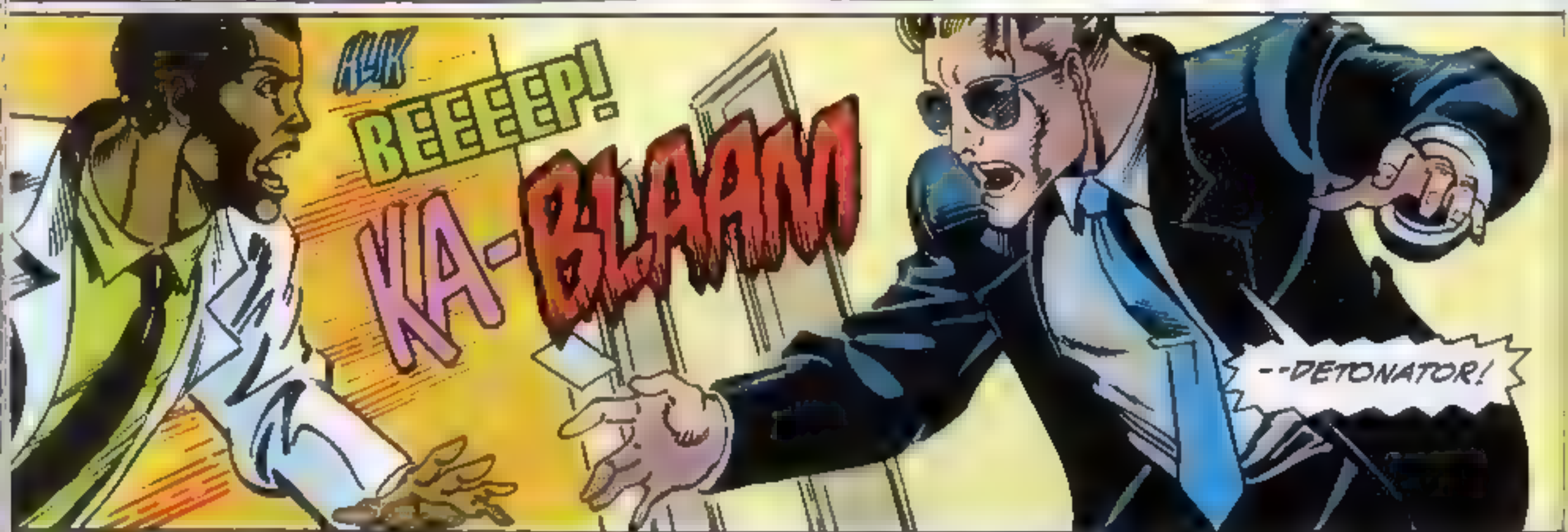
MEANWHILE,
OTHER PERSONS
IN THE WARD ARE
HAVING
DIFFICULTY
AS WELL...

IT'S TIME FOR
MR. BROGA'S
MEDICATION.

LISTEN, "DOC", NOBODY
GOES IN OR OUT OF THERE
UNLESS I SAY SO...
NOW LEMME SEE YOUR
PASS!

COME ON, FELLA! QUIT
BEING SUCH A HARDCASE!
WE'RE HERE TO TREAT
MR. BROGA...NOT TO
HURT HIM!

DID YOU
HEAR THAT?
SOUNDED
LIKE A--



BEEEEEP!

KA-BLAAM!

--DETONATOR!



AGENTS!! WHAT'S
GOING ON?? WHAT'S
HAPPENING??

NEAR AS
WE CAN TELL,
SOME KOOK
JUST BLEW UP
THE WAITING
ROOM.



DISPATCH! THIS IS
ARMSTRONG! WHAT'S
THE SITREP?

TWO DOZEN
INJURED... NO
DAMAGE TO POWER
OR GAS LINES...
STILL WAITING FOR
THE SMOKE TO
CLEAR!

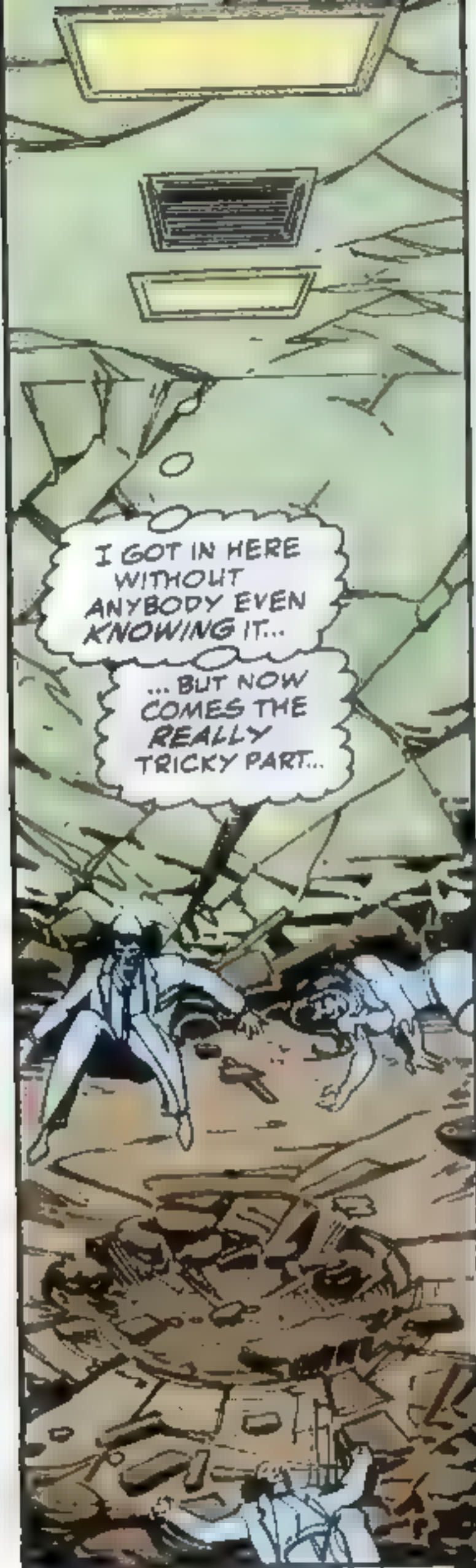
GET ME
OUT OF
HERE!

*SITUATION
REPORT.--
TOM



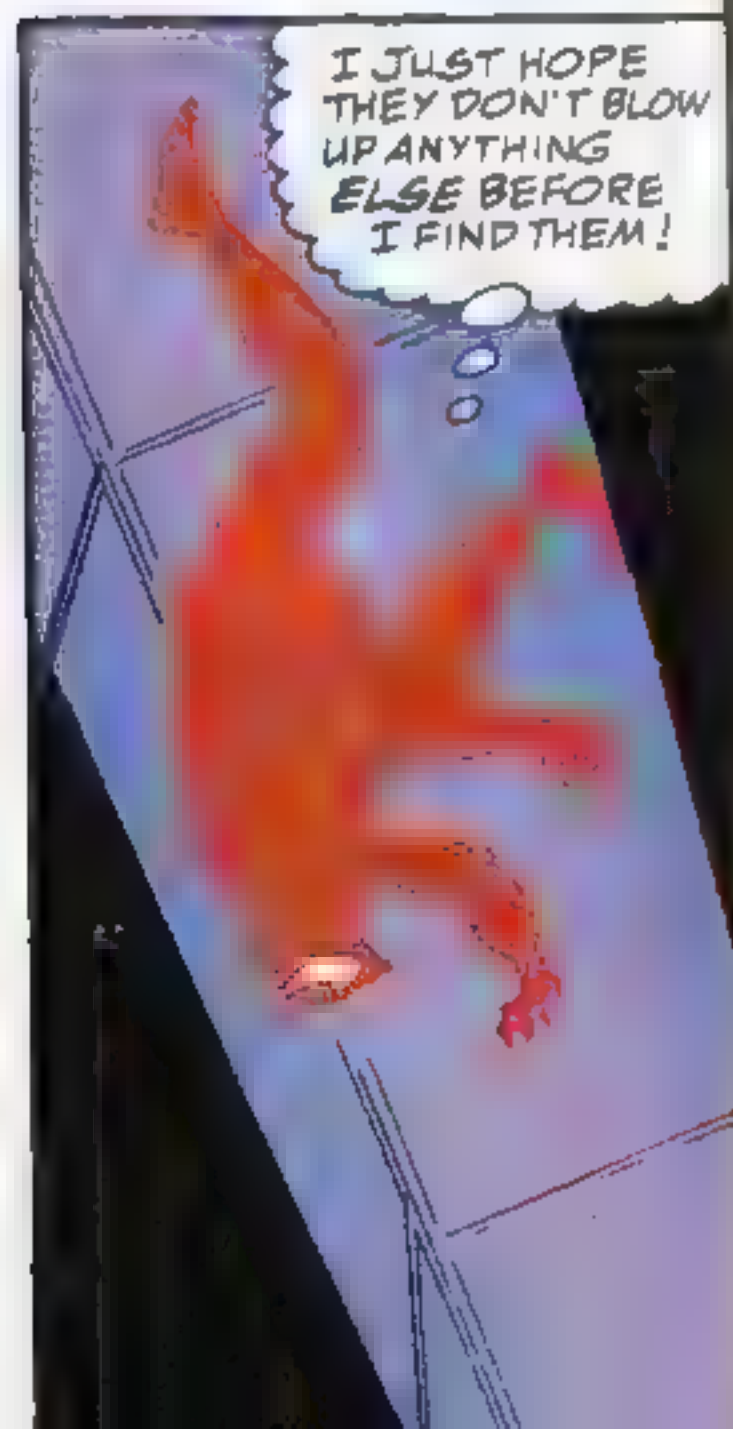
HANG TOUGH,
MISTER...

...EVEN NOW,
DEFENSE
PERIMETERS
HAVE KICKED IN...
NOT SO MUCH AS
AN ITSY BITSY
SPIDER COULD
GET IN WITHOUT
OUR KNOWING
IT!

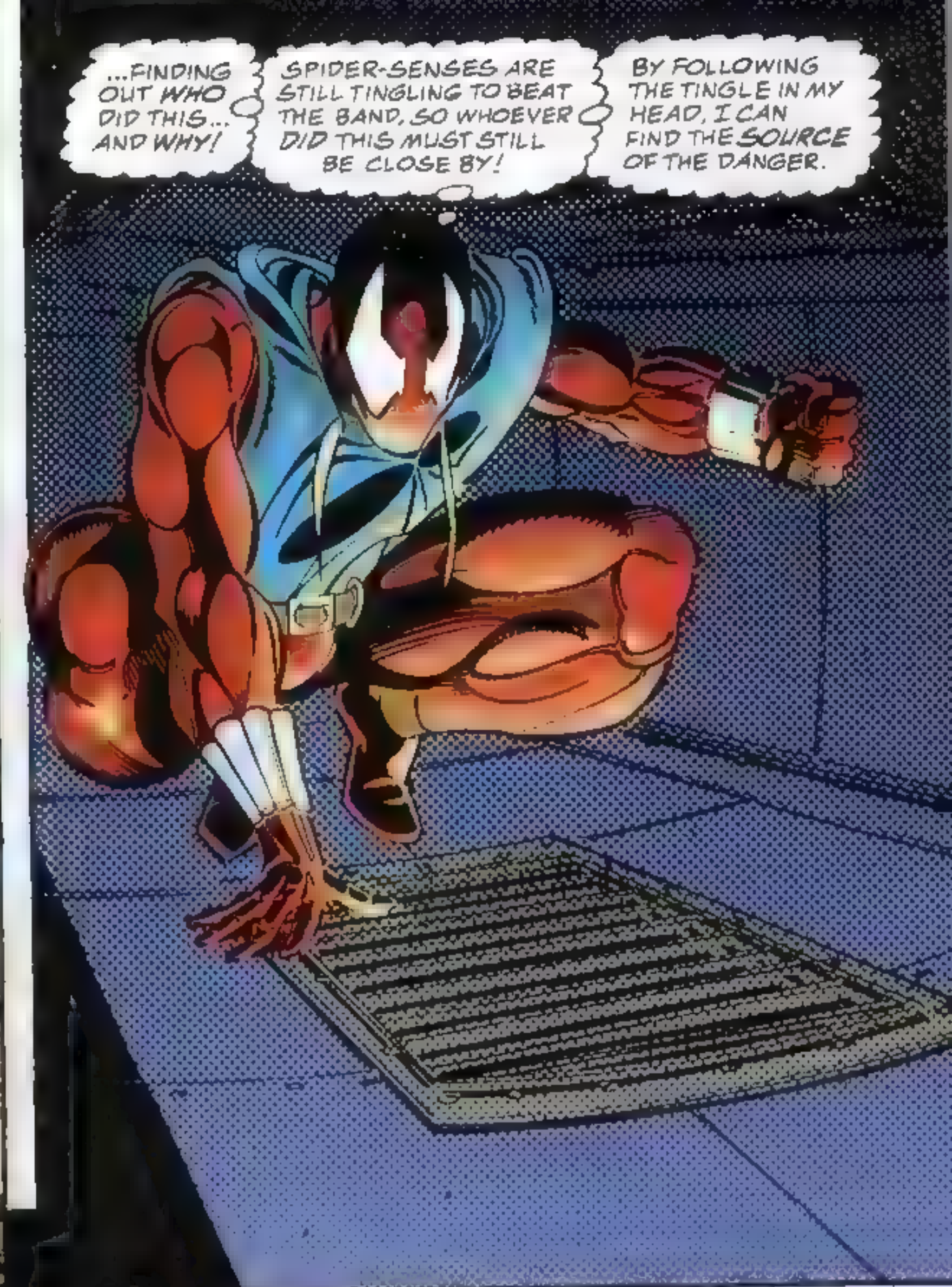


I GOT IN HERE WITHOUT ANYBODY EVEN KNOWING IT...

... BUT NOW COMES THE REALLY TRICKY PART...



I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T BLOW UP ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE I FIND THEM!



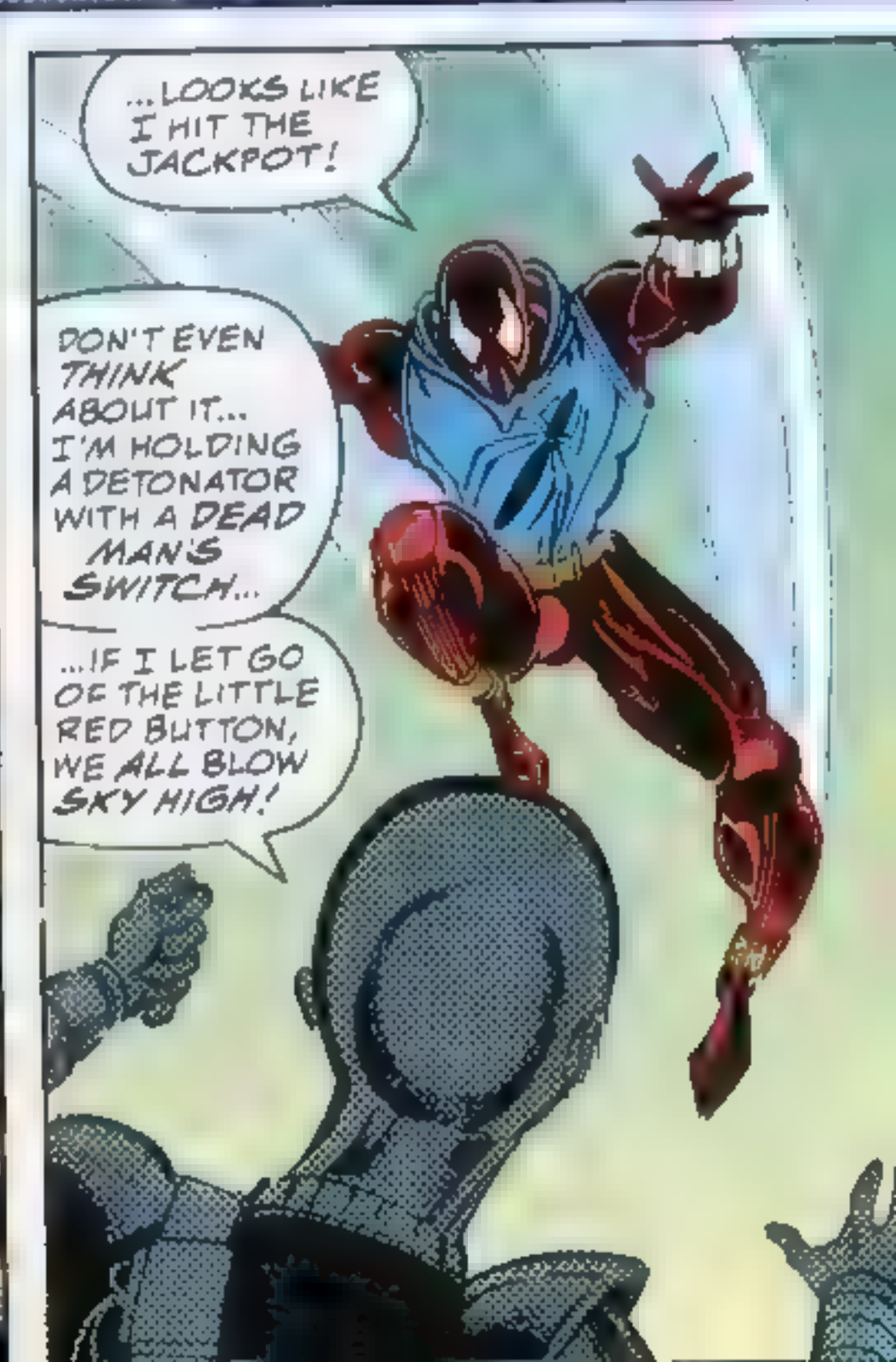
...FINDING OUT WHO DID THIS... AND WHY!

SPIDER-SENSES ARE STILL TINGLING TO BEAT THE BAND, SO WHOEVER DID THIS MUST STILL BE CLOSE BY!

BY FOLLOWING THE TINGLE IN MY HEAD, I CAN FIND THE SOURCE OF THE DANGER.



HMMMMM. BALD CHICK, FUNNY OUTFIT... THIS ISN'T A "STAR TREK" CONVENTION, SO...



...LOOKS LIKE I HIT THE JACKPOT!

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT... I'M HOLDING A DETONATOR WITH A DEAD MAN'S SWITCH...

...IF I LET GO OF THE LITTLE RED BUTTON, WE ALL BLOW SKY HIGH!

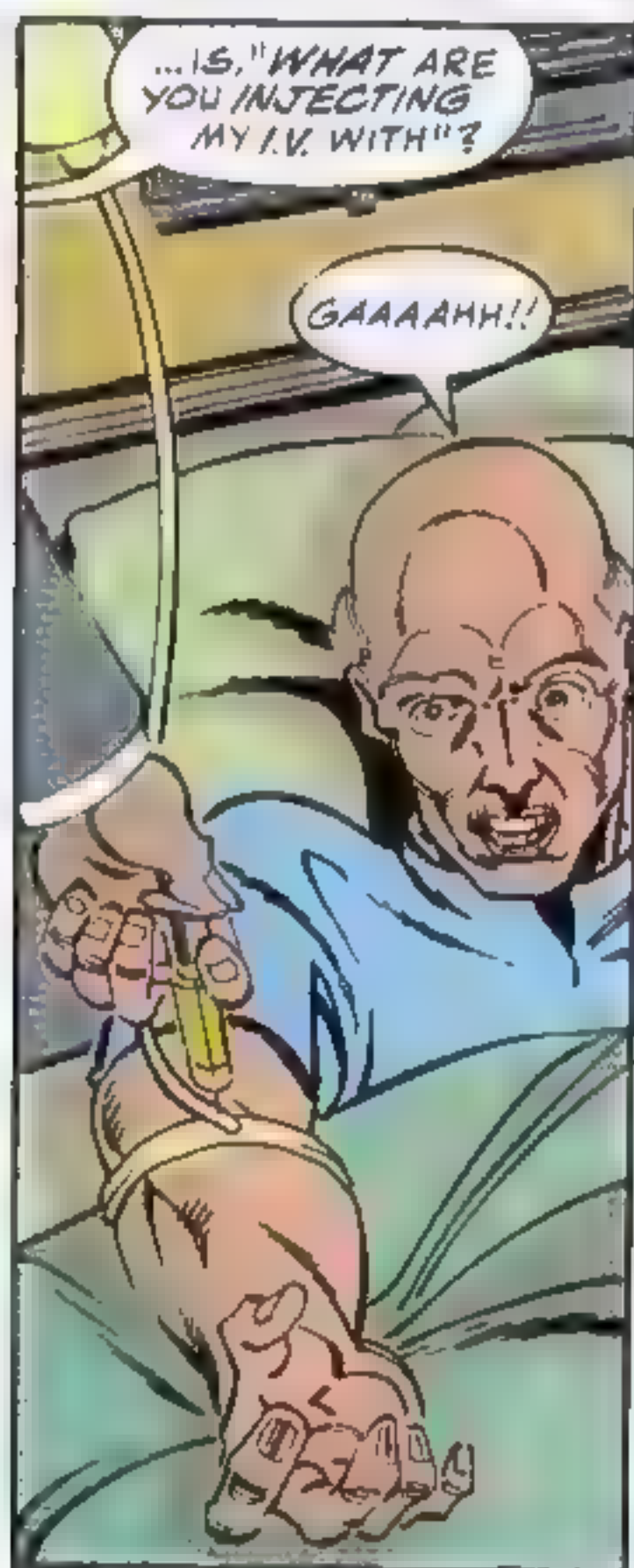


BACK IN BROGA'S ROOM...

NOBODY MOVE!
AS YOU MAY HAVE
GUESSED, WE AREN'T
NO DOCTORS!

AGENT!
WHO ARE
THESE
PEOPLE?

A MORE
APPROPRIATE
QUESTION,
COL. BROGA...



...IS, "WHAT ARE
YOU INJECTING
MY I.V. WITH"?

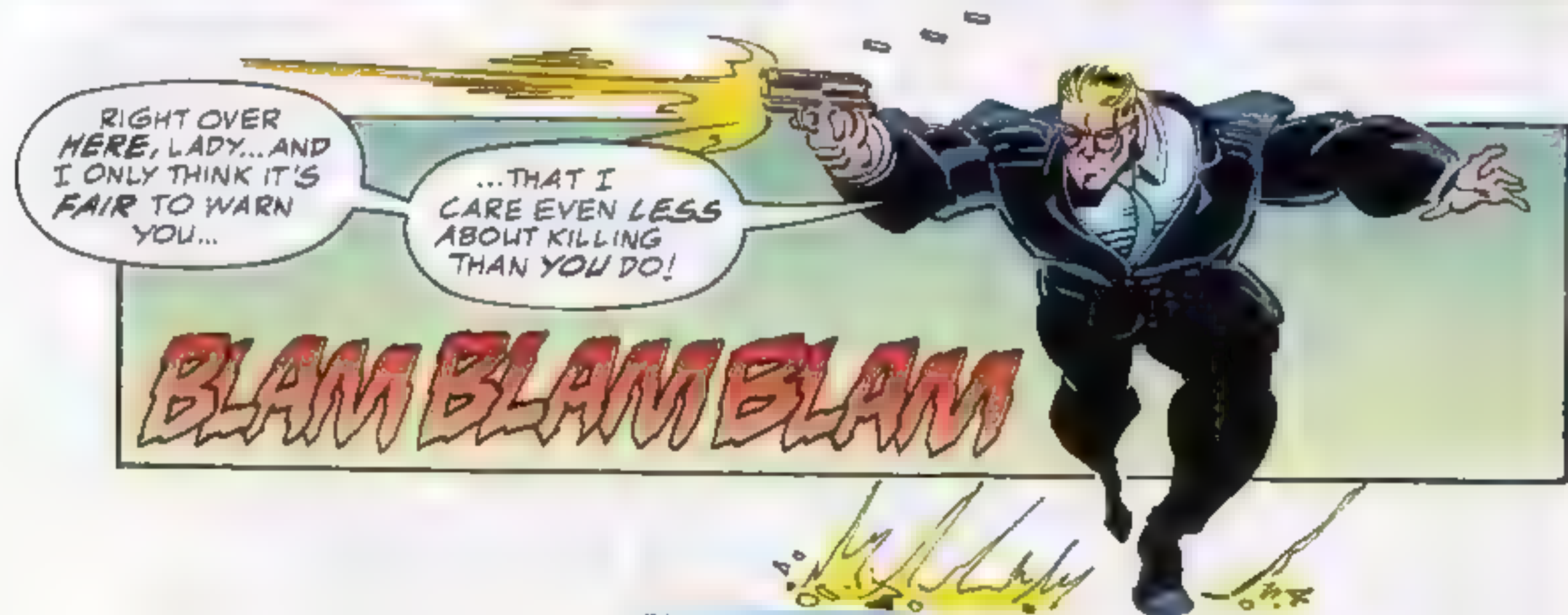
GAAAAHH!!



CLASH! TAKE
THESE GUYS OUT
NICE AND QUIET,
LIKE!

PFUT PFUT PFUT

WHERE'S
THEIR LEADER?
THE HARDCASE
WHO WOULDN'T
LET US IN??



RIGHT OVER
HERE, LADY...AND
I ONLY THINK IT'S
FAIR TO WARN
YOU...

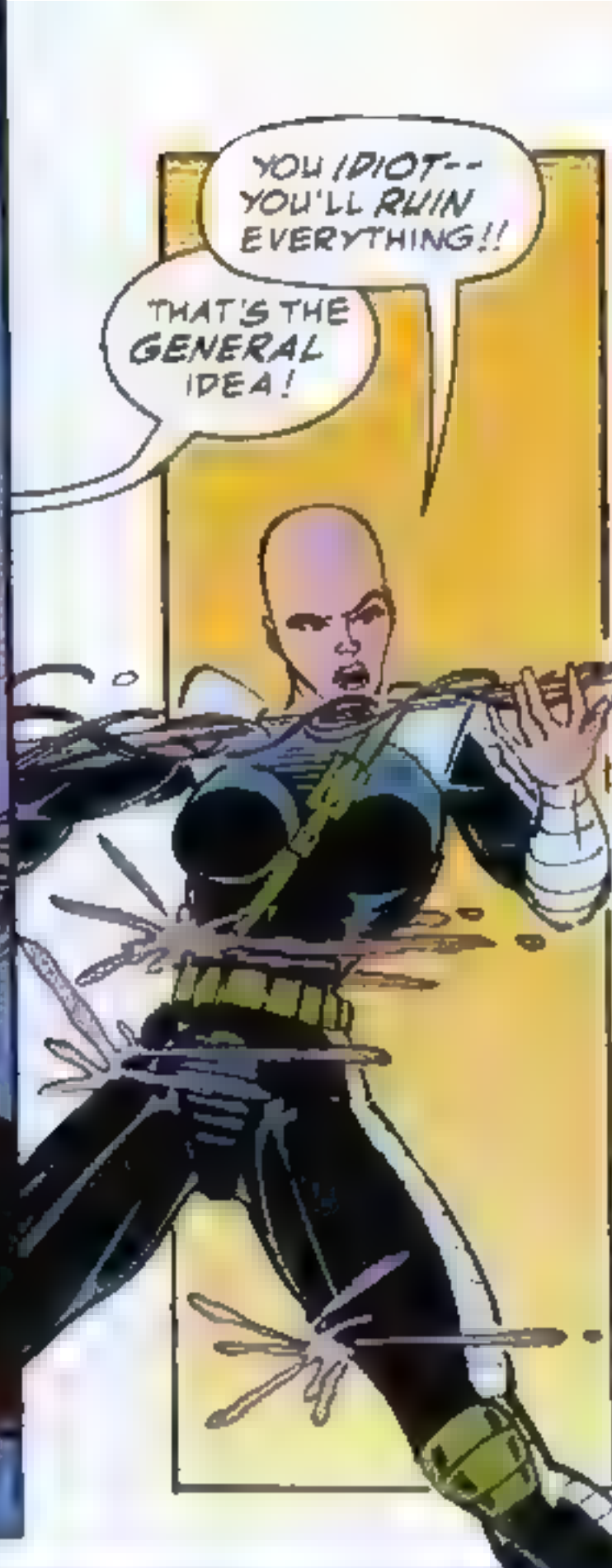
...THAT I
CARE EVEN LESS
ABOUT KILLING
THAN YOU DO!

BLAM BLAM BLAM



Y'KNOW...
I'VE BEEN
THINKING.

BLOWING
US UP'S
NOT SUCH
A GREAT
IDEA.

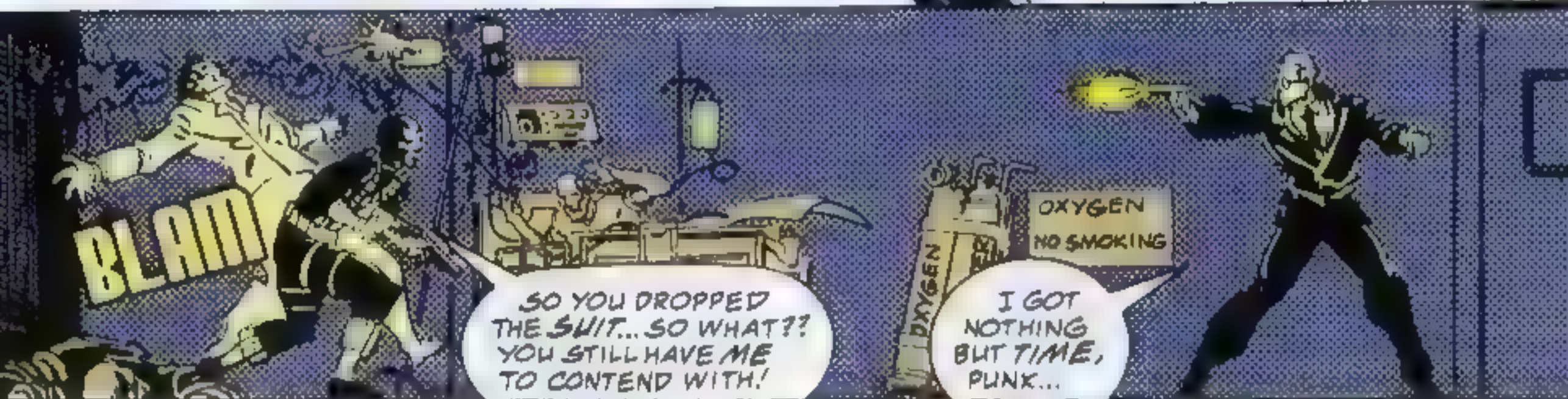


THAT'S THE
GENERAL
IDEA!

YOU IDIOT--
YOU'LL RUIN
EVERYTHING!!



AND FEAR NOT: MY
TRUSTY WEBBING WILL
KEEP THAT LITTLE RED
BUTTON NICE AND
DEPRESSED, MUCH
LIKE YOU'RE PROBABLY
FEELING RIGHT NOW!



SO YOU DROPPED
THE SUIT... SO WHAT??
YOU STILL HAVE ME
TO CONTEND WITH!

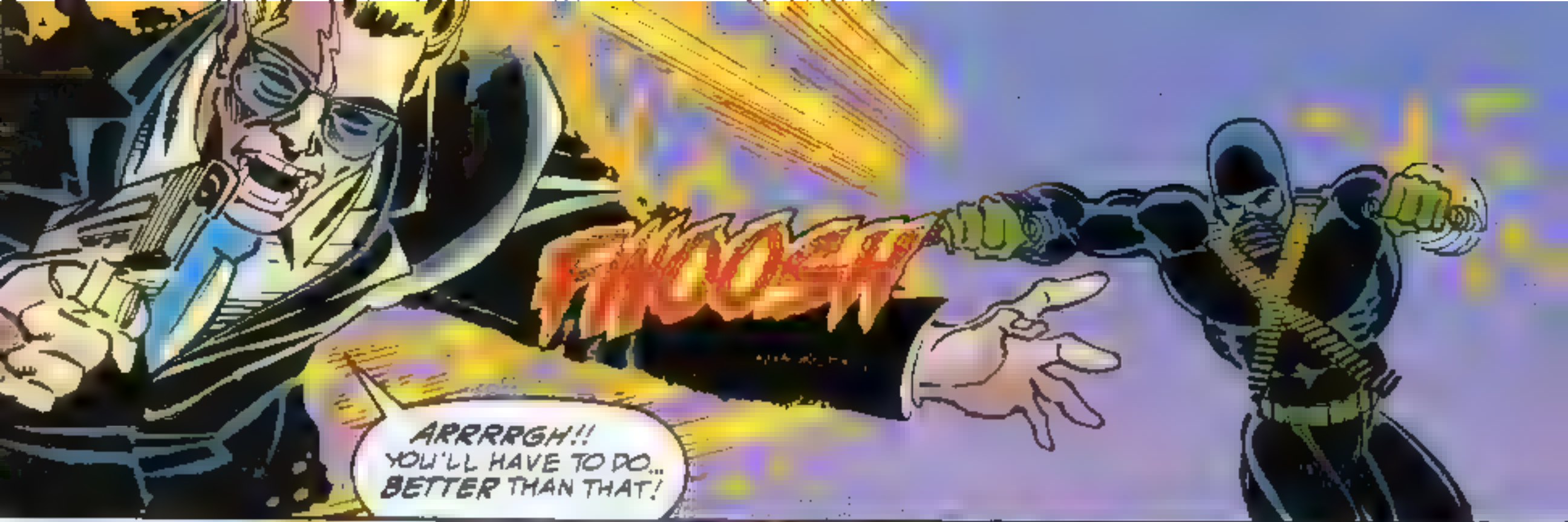
I GOT
NOTHING
BUT TIME,
PUNK...



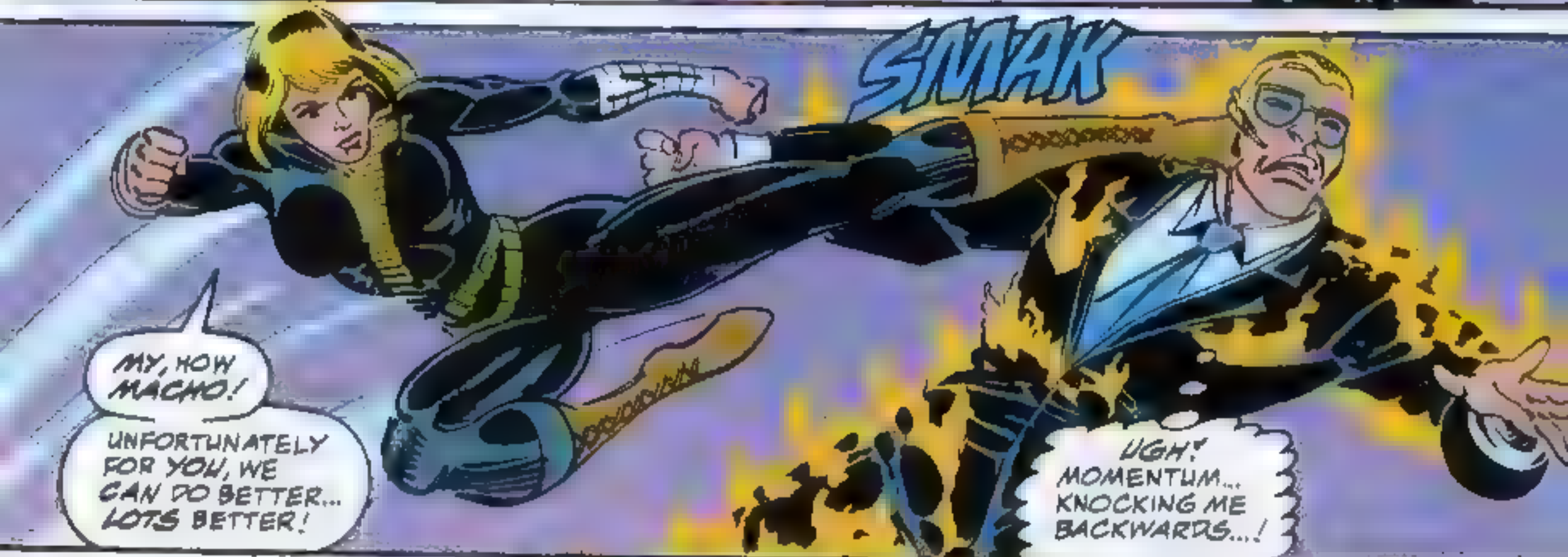
...AND
BULLETS!!

FLARE!! LET'S
WASTE THAT GEEK
BEFORE HE HURTS
SOMEBODY!

HEY!
VISITING HOURS
ARE OVER,
PEOPLE!



ARRRRGH!!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO...
BETTER THAN THAT!



MY, HOW
MACHO!

UNFORTUNATELY
FOR YOU, WE
CAN DO BETTER...
LOTS BETTER!

UGH!
MOMENTUM...
KNOCKING ME
BACKWARDS...!



HUH?? OUTTA
AMMO!

I SWORE AN OATH...
TO GIVE MY LIFE
PROTECTING THIS
GREAT COUNTRY...

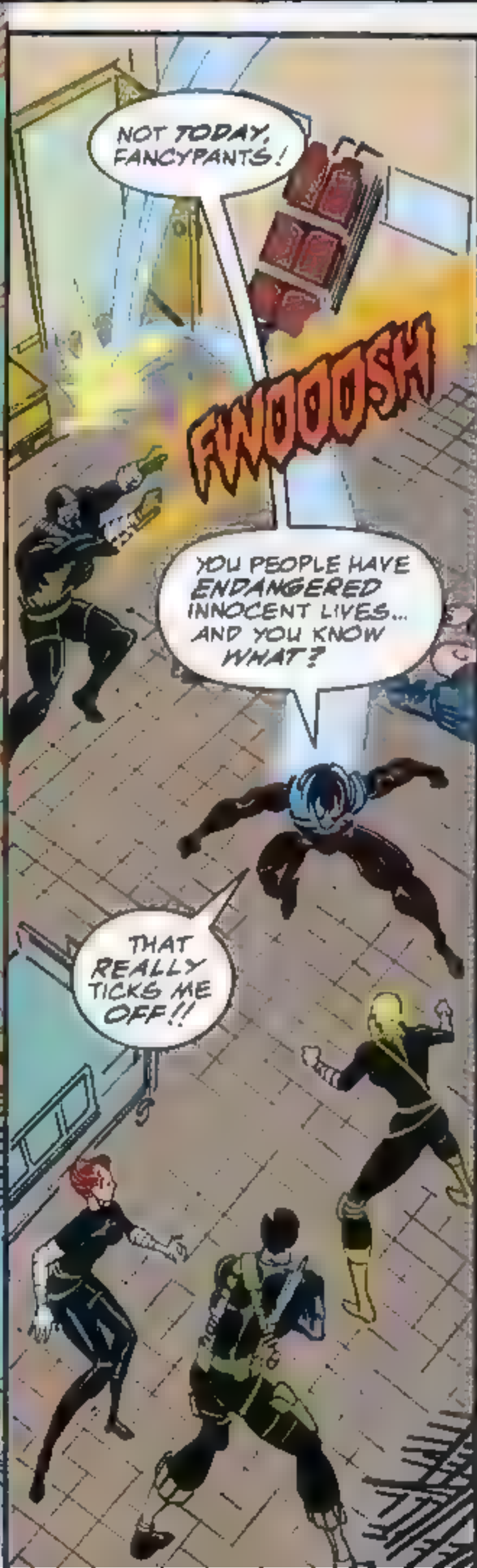
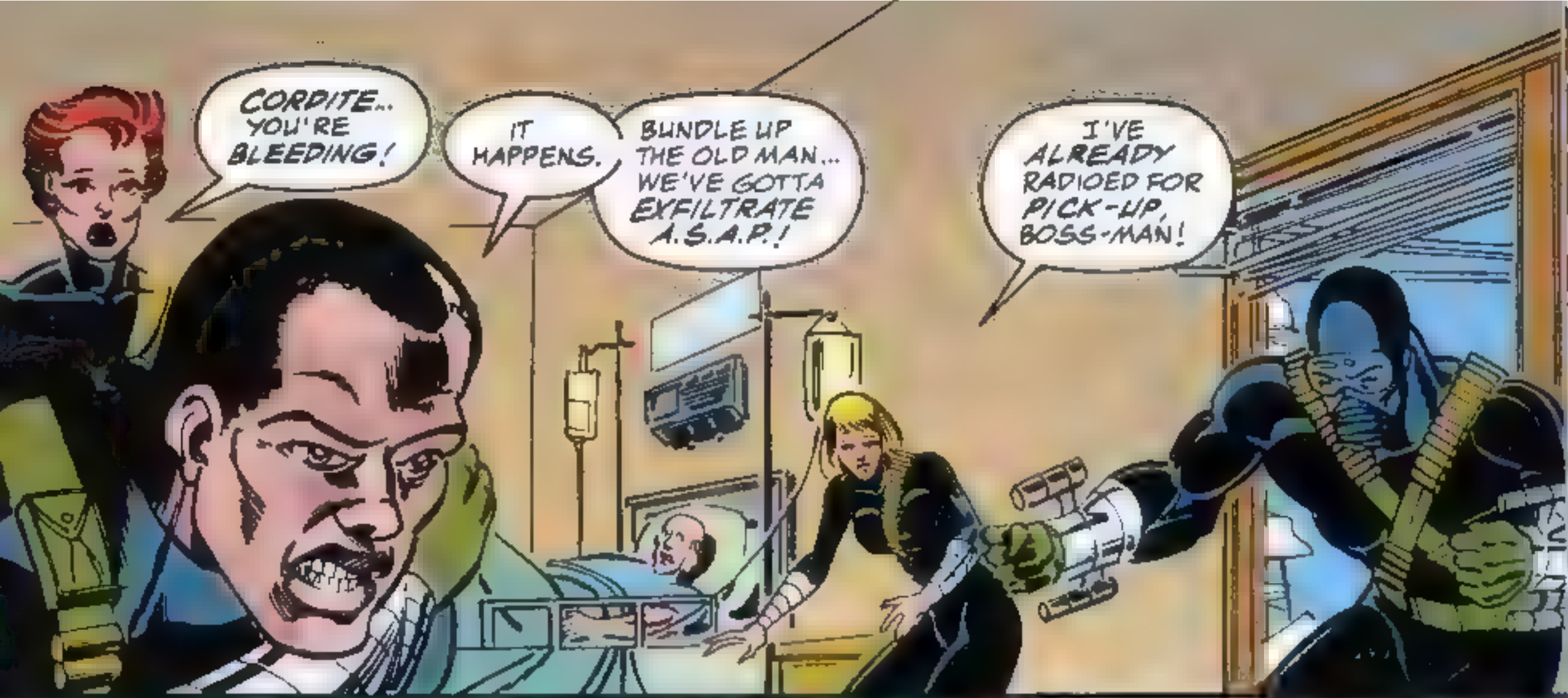
...AND EVEN
THOUGH YOU
PUNKS MIGHT'VE
WON THIS ROUND,
REMEMBER
THIS:

LESSON
TAKEN,
STOOGE...

BLAM

RATTA TATTA TATTA

...ALWAYS
COUNT YOUR
SHOTS!!





PASSION
DOESN'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO
DO WITH IT,
LADY...

SOUNDS
GREAT TO ME,
SPIDER... I
JUST LOVE
PASSIONATE
MEN!



...I DON'T BATTLE
CREEPS LIKE YOU
BECAUSE I WANT
TO...

...BUT
BECAUSE
I HAVE
TO!

OWCH!!



THAT'S IT... RUN,
LIKE THE PITIFUL
COWARDS YOU
ARE!

COULD GO AFTER
'EM... BUT IT'S
MORE IMPORTANT
TO CHECK ON THE
PATIENTS!

DON'T
GET SO
COCKY,
HERO...

...IF WE DIDN'T HAVE
A PRIOR APPOINTMENT,
WE'D STAY HERE AND
KICK YOUR...

GEEZ, CORDITE,
YOU'RE REALLY
BLEEDING!

GOTTA
IMPLEMENT...
PLAN B!



NOW
THAT'S FUNNY...
WHY WOULD THEY
CUT AND RUN
LIKE THAT??

UH-OH!
SPIDER--

K-A-
BOOM



EXCELLENT
SHOT, MAN! IF
THERE'S ANYTHING
LEFT OF THAT
SPIDER-JERK, I'LL
EAT MY STEEL
MESH HAT!

WE'RE THE
BACK-UP
STRIKERS FOR
A REASON,
SHELL...

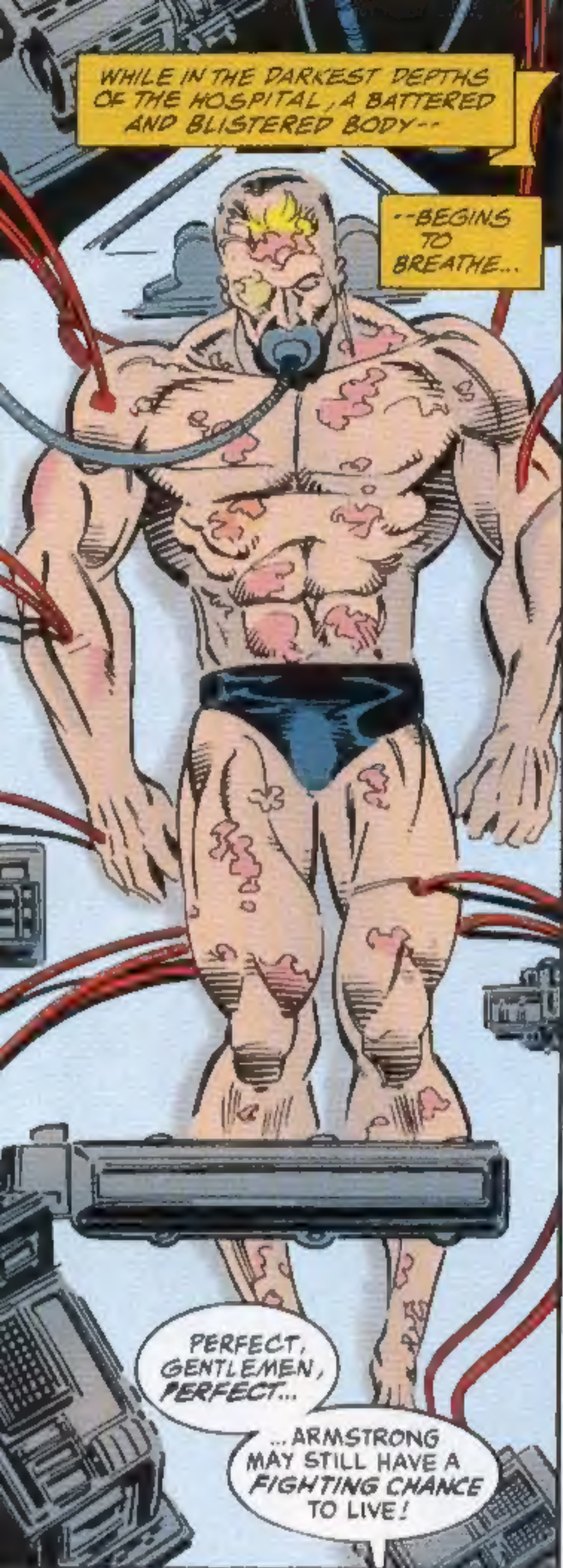
... 'CAUSE WHEN
EVERYBODY ELSE
FUMBLES THE BALL,
WE GET TO BREEZE
IN AND MAKE THINGS
RIGHT!

YEAH...
RIGHT FOR
US!!

HA HA HA!
YEAH... AND
OUR BANK
ACCOUNTS!



ANYWAYS, THE
SMOKE SHOULD COVER
THEIR ESCAPE... NOW
LET'S BEAT FEET TO
THE RENDEZVOUS
POINT!



WHILE IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE HOSPITAL, A BATTERED AND BLISTERED BODY--

--BEGINS TO BREATHE...

PERFECT, GENTLEMEN, PERFECT...

...ARMSTRONG MAY STILL HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE TO LIVE!



PLEASE LOCK THE DOOR WHEN YOU LEAVE.

OF COURSE, DR. PURL, BUT--

GO.

THE PROCEDURE'S STILL EXPERIMENTAL, UNTESTED FOR THE MOST PART. THIS WILL COST ME--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, PROFESSIONALLY AND PERMANENTLY--

--BUT YOUNG ARMSTRONG HAS NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE ANYMORE.

HE'S OUT OF TIME.

SO I'M OUT OF OPTIONS...

TEK

AND FAR, FAR SOUTH-- IN A DAMP AND CRAMPED PLACE, DEEP BENEATH THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES--

--AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THE HUM OF THE GREAT MACHINES WHICH PUMP LIFE BACK INTO THE BATTERED SECURITY AGENT'S BODY--

--SOMETHING SAVAGE STIRS...

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BIRTH PAINS!

MARVEL
COMICS

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN SUPER SPECIAL™

PART
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FIVE

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**THE LEGEND
OF THE
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PEDI
-AFTER-
MCFARIANE